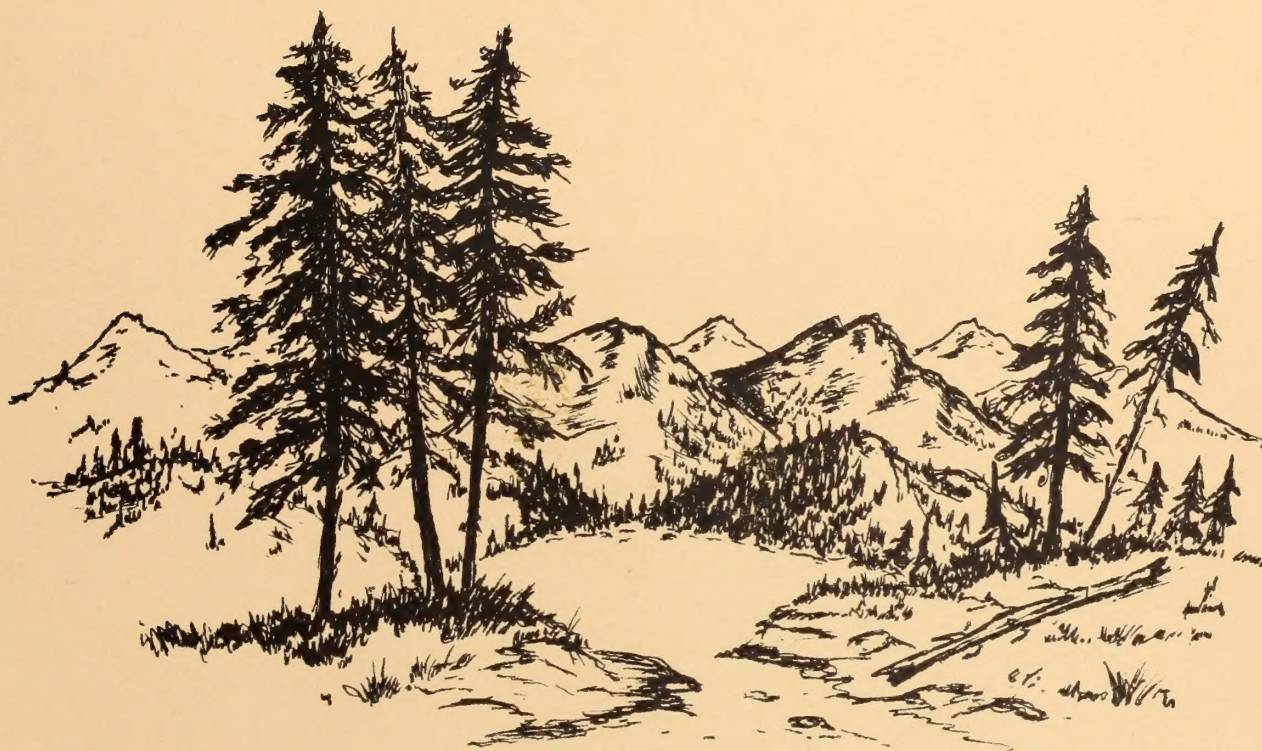


MONTANA

INITIAL WILDERNESS INVENTORY

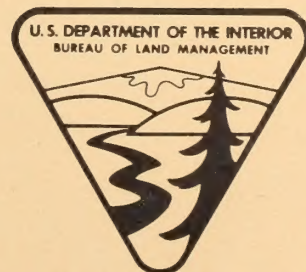


FINAL DECISION

AUGUST 1979



U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Montana State Office
P.O. Box 30157
222 North 32nd St.
Billings, MT 59107



Errata

Please disregard the Final Initial Inventory Map legend categories "Areas Dropped From Further Wilderness Consideration, Identified With Northern Tier Accelerated Inventory" and "Unit Decisions Changed From Proposed Initial Inventory Decision (See Narrative Summaries)." The overlaid lines were not picked up in the printing process.

The south half of Inventory Unit 150 (Butte District) should be colored brown. Unit 268 (Lewistown District) should be colored yellow.

880 05484
United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

222 North 32nd Street

P.O. Box 30157

Billings, Montana 59107

QH
76.5
.m9
L35

August 1979

Dear Reader:

The Montana State Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for multiple use management on approximately 8.5 million acres of public land in Montana, North and South Dakota. These lands are currently being reviewed for possible wilderness designation.

This informational packet contains the Montana BLM's final initial wilderness inventory decision results. This decision represents the "first cut," or the elimination of lands from wilderness consideration which clearly and obviously do not contain wilderness characteristics. This decision will become final for all inventory units 30 days after a notice is published in the Federal Register. The announcement is expected to appear by August 20.

The inventory units affected by decision changes are identified on the enclosed map. Rationale for the decisions affecting these units is provided in the inventory unit narrative summaries.

Public comments, existing BLM information and limited field verification were used to arrive at the final initial inventory decision. On that basis, we have identified 192 inventory units containing 6,274,606 acres which will no longer be considered for wilderness designation. This represents 74 percent of the total acreage administered by the Montana State BLM Office. The remaining 198 inventory units portrayed on the enclosed map represent 2,210,757 acres which will be studied in the intensive inventory phase.

All remaining BLM administered lands under the jurisdiction of this office will remain in the inventory until field studies are completed. The field inventory will result in additional changes in the total acreage under consideration for wilderness. A proposed wilderness study area map and narrative summary will be prepared later this fall and released to the public by mid-February 1980.

All public comments received during initial inventory were subjected to a content analysis process. Documents which describe this process and provide individual inventory unit comments are available at all Montana

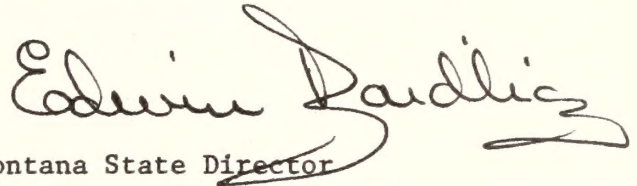
Bureau of Land Management
Library
Denver Service Center

and North Dakota BLM offices and other public building locations. These locations are provided in the public participation summary section of this document.

The Butte District inventory contains lands included in the Rocky Mountain Overthrust Belt. The inventory for this District will be accelerated. You will want to check the inventory schedule found elsewhere in this document for key decision and public participation timing.

We encourage your continued involvement in this program. It is important that the public participate in every step of the wilderness review process to insure that the best possible decisions are made.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Edwin Baudlig". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name "Montana State Director".

Montana State Director

Enclosure

Introduction

This summary document has been prepared to acquaint the public with the various phases of the Montana Bureau of Land Management's wilderness review process and to summarize final initial inventory unit findings.

This packet is divided into three major parts. The first section deals with general information about the wilderness review process, schedules and inventory criteria. The second section is a general discussion of the public comment content analysis process and the general findings of the analysis. The third section is a listing of all inventory units by BLM district, categorized by the initial inventory decision. A brief description of the area is provided as well as a unit decision and rationale.

General Information

The Process

The wilderness review process contains three major phases. They are the inventory, study and report stages. Each of these phases are explained in detail in the following text.

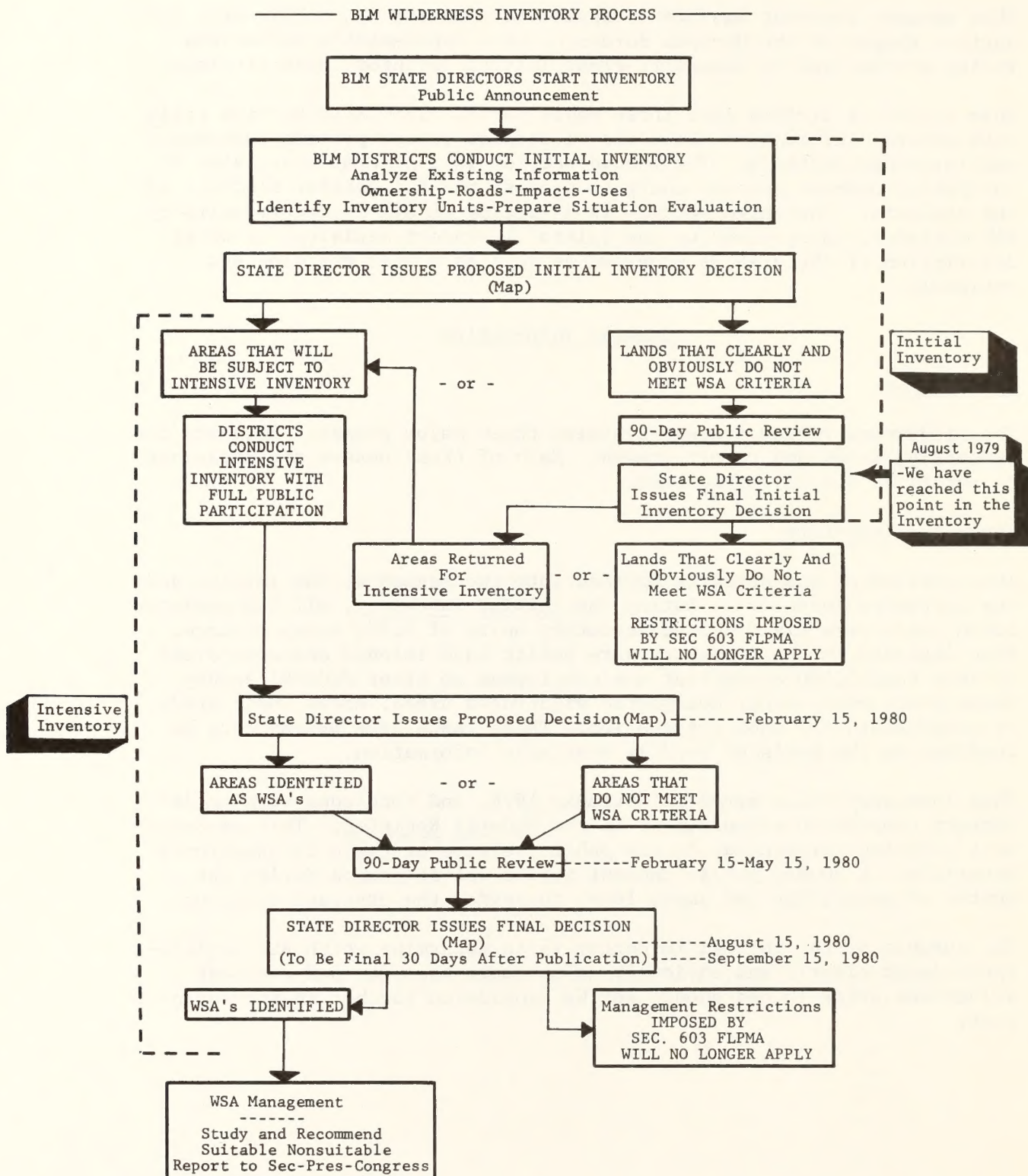
Phase I. Inventory

This portion of the study is divided into two segments, the initial and the intensive inventory. During the initial inventory, all BLM administered lands were divided into inventory units of 5,000 acres or more. Also included in the inventory were public land islands and some areas of less than 5,000 acres that are contiguous to other Federal agency lands which were either designated wilderness areas, areas under study or recommended for such designation. These lands were presumed to be roadless on the basis of readily available information.

This inventory was started in November 1978, and concludes with an inventory completion announcement in the Federal Register. This announcement printing corresponds to the public release of these informational materials. A 90-day public comment period was scheduled during the months of April, May and June, 1979, to review the proposed decisions.

The purpose of the initial inventory is to determine which BLM administered lands clearly and obviously do not meet the size and roadless wilderness criteria and should not be considered further in the inventory.

The following chart portrays the inventory process and the decision point which we have reached.



The intensive inventory is an in-depth examination of all remaining inventory units for wilderness characteristics. These characteristics include outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation, solitude, naturalness and the presence or absence of supplemental values.

A field examination of these inventory units is being conducted during the summer and fall months of 1979. This inventory will result in a proposed wilderness study area decision and map. The proposed decision is followed by a 90-day public comment period which results in a final wilderness study area decision and map, concluding with a final 30-day comment period.

The inventory flow chart shown on the previous page portrays the intensive inventory steps and key dates scheduled for completion of important elements.

Phase II. Study

After wilderness study areas have been identified through the inventory process, they will be studied through the BLM planning system to analyze all values, resources and uses. In this way, BLM will determine which wilderness study areas will be recommended as suitable and which non-suitable for wilderness designation.

Phase III. Report

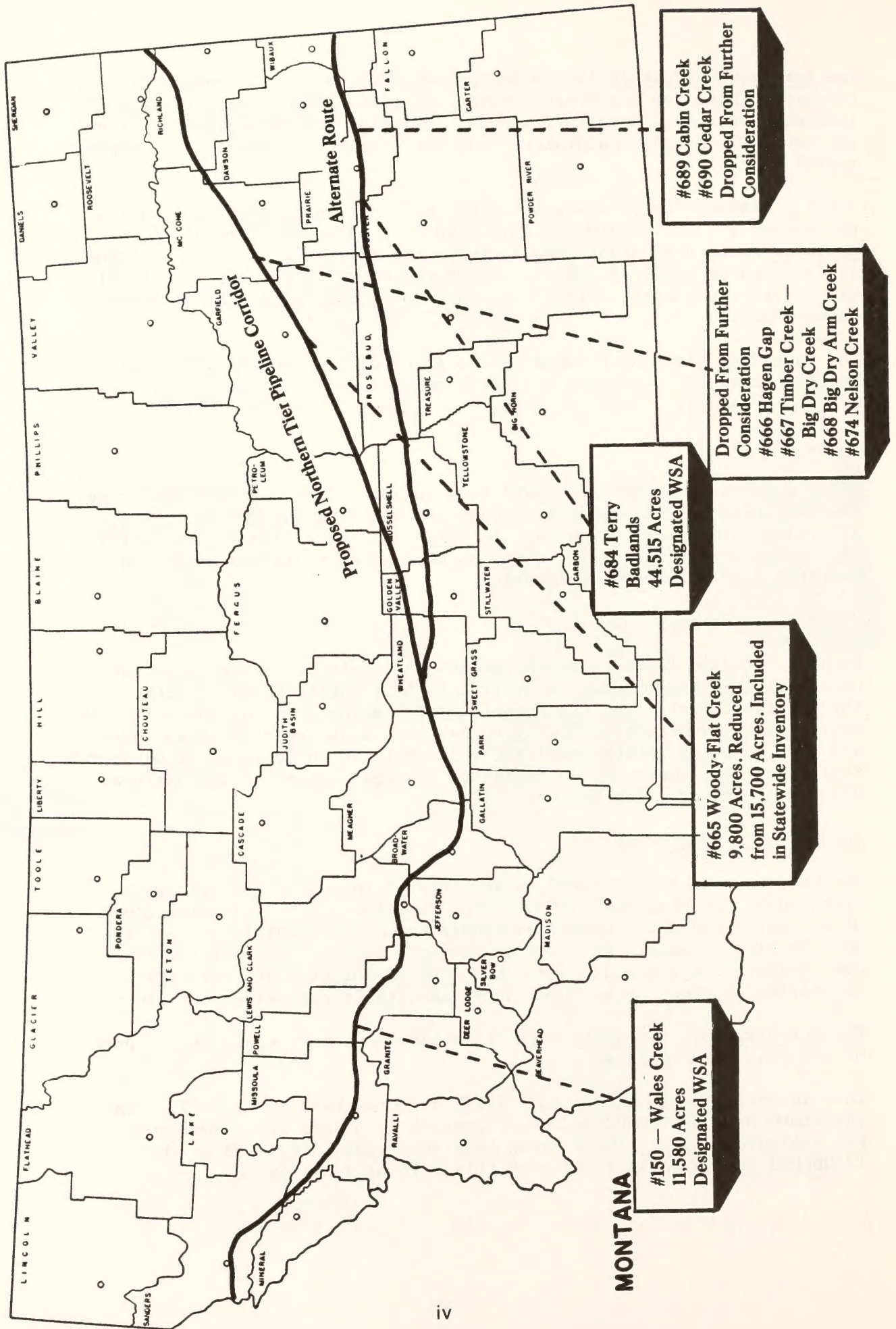
When the studies for each of the areas are completed, either a suitable or nonsuitable recommendation by area will be submitted by the BLM through the Secretary of the Interior and President to the Congress. An environmental statement is required for each area reported as suitable. All such reports must be completed and submitted to Congress by October 21, 1991. Only the Congress can designate an area as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Accelerated Inventories

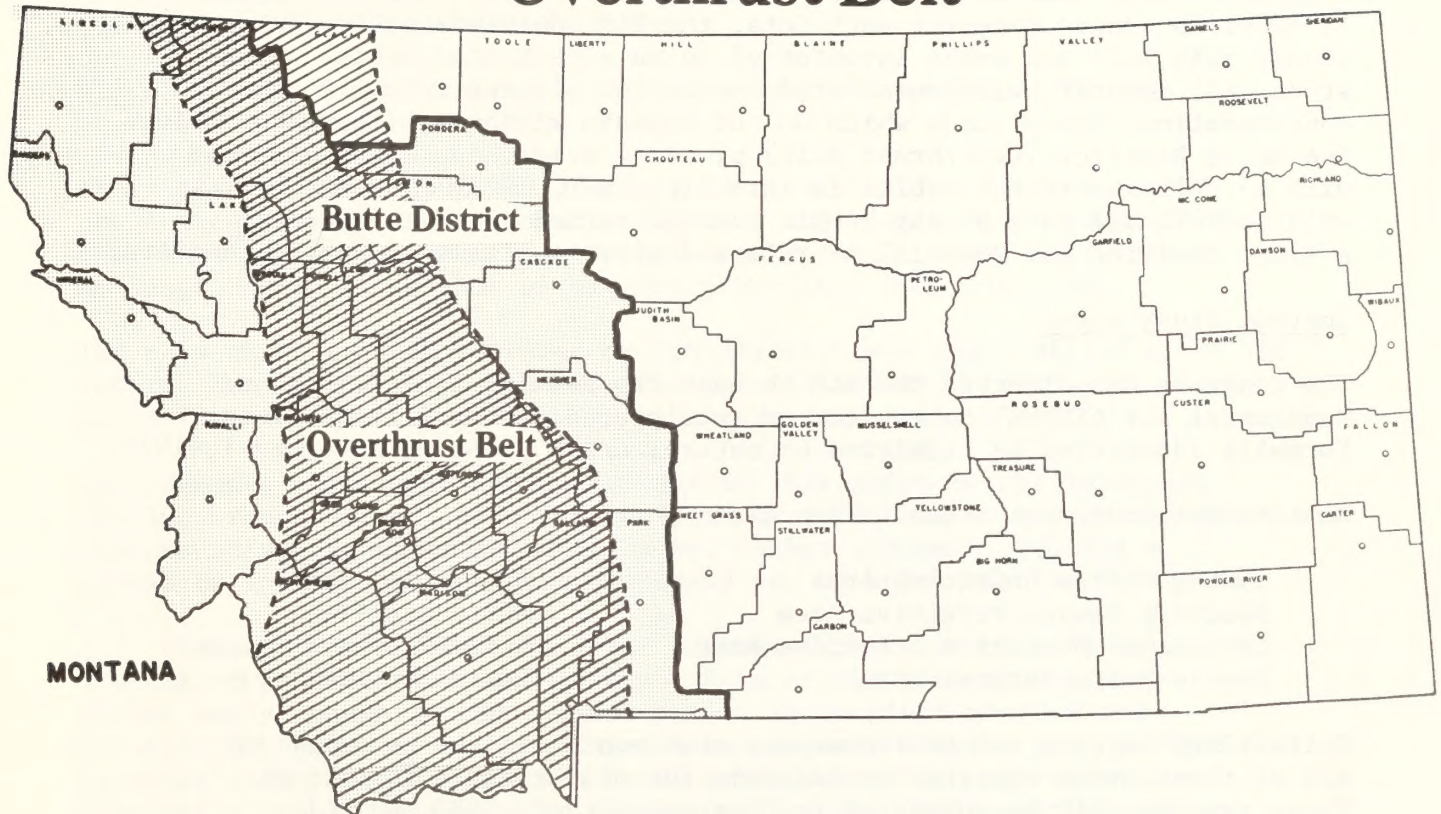
The Montana BLM has completed an accelerated inventory for all areas affected by the proposed Northern Tier Pipeline. An accelerated study of all inventory units contained within the Rocky Mountain Overthrust Belt is also necessary in order to identify those areas having wilderness characteristics and to permit energy exploration and extraction activities in those areas found to be unsuitable for wilderness study.

The Northern Tier Inventory identified nine inventory units in the path of the proposed pipeline.

This inventory began in December 1978, and concluded May 1, 1979. The inventory unit decisions and their general locations are summarized on the following chart. These areas have also been identified on the 1/500,000 scale map included with this informational packet.



Overthrust Belt



Overthrust Belt Inventory

The Overthrust Belt which has been called the "disturbed belt" extends across North America from Alaska to Mexico. In the lower 48 contiguous states, this belt includes western Montana, an area along the Wyoming - Idaho border and extends south into Utah, Nevada and Arizona.

Geologically, the term "overthrust" refers to a complex formation of sedimentary rock. This belt has faults with low dip angles which result in rock strata overriding adjacent strata while both remain nearly horizontal.

When the faulting occurred, pockets of oil and gas were trapped in a contorted maze that has puzzled geologists. However, recent advances in seismic technology have given exploration crews a clearer picture of the puzzle.

With the increased need for energy production, it is expected that the Overthrust Belt will be subjected to a renewal of exploration activities. In order to reduce resource conflicts, the BLM administered lands located within this belt are being inventoried on an accelerated basis. This study will identify wilderness study areas and eliminate from further consideration, those lands which do not contain wilderness characteristics. The Butte District (Overthrust Belt) proposed wilderness study area map will be released to the public in late September, 1979. The map release will be followed by a 90 day public comment period (October-December). A final decision and map will be released after analysis of public comments.

Instant Study Areas

The Congress has directed the BLM through the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) to conduct an accelerated study of those areas formally identified as primitive or natural areas prior to November 1, 1975.

Montana has four such areas. They are:

Humbug Spires Primitive Area	Butte District
Beartrap Canyon Primitive Area	Butte District
Centennial Mountains Primitive Area	Butte District
Square Butte Natural Area	Lewistown District

Suitability reports and environmental statements will be prepared for all of those areas reported as suitable for wilderness designation. These reports will be submitted to Congress by July 1980, with the exception of the Centennial Mountains Study. The final report for this area will not be made until July 1981. The one year delay is needed to conduct mineral survey and suitability report studies.

The public will be invited to participate in the "instant study area" reviews as they proceed through the BLM planning process. Notices of public meetings and comment periods will be made through media sources and notices to individuals or groups on mailing lists.

The four instant study areas are identified on the statewide final decision map.

Public Participation

The initial inventory 90 day public comment period began April 1 and ended June 30, 1979. Montana Bureau of Land Management district offices conducted 24 meetings and open houses throughout the state during the comment period. Both written and oral comments were solicited.

A total of 579 people or organizations wrote 456 letters or provided personal input at public meetings. These letters were sent to the Montana Wilderness Institute* for data assimilation and content analysis. Another 34 letters were received after a July 8 cutoff date to submit comments to the Wilderness Institute.

All of the comments received were reviewed by BLM personnel at the Montana State Office, Billings.

The review process consisted of the Wilderness Institute categorizing the comments by content (content analysis) and listing them under inventory unit headings. The comments were not summarized or paraphrased so that meanings could not be lost or misinterpretations read into them.

The comments were then reviewed by BLM district and state office staff for information which could influence the initial inventory decision. The final inventory decision was made by the Montana State Director.

The comments which were most pertinent to this phase of the inventory involved roads as they affected the size of inventory units and manmade impacts affecting apparent naturalness. Other comments involved a number of topics but the major responses can be summarized as follows:

1. Comments about roads and other manmade impacts which were not identified in situation evaluations. Some of the comments were received early enough in the comment period to be field checked and verified by inventory crews. Those inventory units which were divided by roads into parcels less than 5,000 acres, which did not receive substantial public support for further wilderness consideration and do not contain outstanding wilderness characteristics, are being dropped from the inventory (see summary descriptions for Units 313, 298, 291, 276, 279, 270, 713, 739, 707, 726, 727, 706, 695 and portions of 685, 702, 730 and 649).

Those comments which could not be verified in the field during the initial inventory will be field checked in the intensive inventory.

*The Montana Wilderness Institute is a branch of the School of Forestry, University of Montana, Missoula. The objectives of this organization are to develop professional expertise for application to wilderness related problems and to promote research and public education concerning wilderness resources. The Institute does not assume a political or advocacy role on any wilderness issue.

2. Comments about wilderness characteristics such as opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, solitude, naturalness, etc. These comments were reviewed for effects upon the apparent naturalness of an inventory unit.
3. Comments by industry sources on oil and gas leases and other minerals activity.
4. Statements either for or against wilderness designation without reasons given for preferences.
5. Comments on the Forest Service Rare II process.

Reports Available

It is important to note that all of the comments were carefully considered in arriving at the initial inventory decision. Those comments dealing with wilderness characteristics will be considered again during the intensive inventory.

All changes which differ from the proposed decision map and situation evaluations released to the public in April are identified on the final decision map and discussed in the summary narrative portion of this document.

The documents prepared by the Montana Wilderness Institute which categorize individual inventory unit comments are available for public review at all Montana BLM offices and the Dickinson (North Dakota) District Office. Copies of the written comments received after the July 8 cutoff date are also available at these offices.

These documents can also be reviewed at the following locations:

Butte District

Dillon - City Library
Dillon - Clerk and Recorder's Office
Courthouse
Dillon - BLM Resource Area Office
Sheridan - City Library
Virginia City - Clerk and Recorder's Office
Madison County Courthouse
Ennis - Town Hall
Missoula - City-County Library
Missoula - Garnet Resource Area Office, BLM
Deer Lodge - Clerk and Recorder's Office
Powell County Courthouse
Butte - Butte-Silverbow Library
Butte - BLM District Office
Great Falls - Public Library
301 Second Avenue North
Helena - Lewis & Clark Library
120 South Last Chance Mall

Bozeman - City Library
35 North Bozeman Avenue
Chouteau - Public Library

Miles City District

Terry - Public Library
Jordan - Public Library
Ekalaka - Public Library
Broadus - Public Library
Miles City - Public Library

Lewistown District

Billings - Billings Resource Area Office, BLM
Ryegate - Courthouse
Red Lodge - Courthouse
Lovell, Wyoming - Post Office
Lewistown - Judith Resource Area Office, BLM
Lewistown - Post Office
Winifred - Post Office
Winnett - Courthouse
Lewistown - City Library
Lewistown - Chamber of Commerce Building
Havre - Havre Resource Area Office, BLM
Havre - Post Office
Fort Benton - Post Office
Big Sandy - Post Office
Chinook - Post Office
Harlem - Post Office
Malta - Phillips Resource Area Office, BLM
Malta - City Library
Glasgow - Valley Resource Area Office, BLM
Glasgow - City Library
Glasgow - Chamber of Commerce Building
Glasgow - Grazing District Office
110 5th Street South

Butte District

Units To Be Intensively Inventoried

Please Note: Information on oil and gas leases, mining claims and grazing units is provided in some of the summary narratives included in the following section. This data is not complete and is only offered as general information. This information was not used in arriving at decisions for specific units.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Ruby Mountains
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-001
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 32,000 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The boundaries of this unit enclose approximately 32,000 acres of public land.

Roughly 12,600 acres in the northern part of the unit have been designated as wildlife habitat.

There is a stock driveway withdrawal inside the southwest boundary of the unit.

A BLM road easement extends into the unit for approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.

Ten mining claims have been registered just inside the southern boundary of the unit.

There are remains of two 20' x 20' log cabins in Robinson Canyon.

Approximately 60% of the unit is used for grazing of livestock and there are 15 miles of fencing associated with this grazing activity. Thirty acres of timber within the unit was selectively cut in 1975. This same area has been designated as a dumping ground for spoils from the talc mine which is just outside the southern boundary of the unit.

There are eight vehicle ways within the unit totalling roughly 12 miles in length.

Approximately 40 acres of timber inside the southern boundary of the area were selectively logged in 1951.

There is a rock quarry inside the northwest boundary of the unit. The quarry has not been active since 1971.

This unit encompasses the Ruby Mountain Range. It is characterized by rugged, steep upthrusts and rock outcrops. Elevations range from a high of 9,391' on Ruby Peak in the center of the unit to a low of 5,250' near the eastern boundary. The predominant vegetation is timber with some grass, sagebrush, and mountain shrub.

There are outstanding opportunities for solitude, and primitive and unconfined recreation.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Blacktail Mountains
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-002
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 21,700 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are 5 different BLM grazing allotments within the inventory unit. There are 2 small oil and gas leases and several lease applications on the west slope of the unit.

There are several registered mining claims in the Jake Canyon area.

There are 5 old cabins in the unit.

There are roughly 4 miles of fencing, and 3 spring developments associated with the grazing.

There are 4 vehicle ways within the unit.

The only current recreation use within the unit is some big game hunting in the fall.

This unit encompasses most of the Blacktail Mountain Range. Elevation ranges from 6,100' along Sheep Creek to an unnamed peak of 9,477'. The east face of the range is steep and timbered, while the west slope is a high, gently rolling, grass and sage plateau. Major drainages are Sheep Creek, Ashbough Canyon, and Jake Canyon. There are cliffs along Sheep Creek and Ashbough Canyons and some bare rock and talus associated with some of the highest peaks.

The unit is adjacent to BLM roadless inventory unit MT-076-013 (Blacktail Mountains West) which is approximately 2,130 acres in size.

The Blacktail Mountains generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. The vehicle ways, structures, and range developments that are included within the unit do not significantly detract from the basic primitive character of the area.

The relative large size of the inventory unit, and the fact that it encompasses essentially an entire mountain range, with numerous drainages and side canyons, and dense stands of timber, all contribute to outstanding opportunities for solitude.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Blacktail Mountains West
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-003
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 2,130 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are 4 oil and gas leases covering the entire area.

A small part of the inventory unit is grazed by livestock and there is roughly $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of fencing associated with this grazing.

This is a forested area at the north end of the Blacktail Mountain Range. Elevations range from 6,100' at the bottom of Sheep Creek Canyon to 8,284'.

This unit is adjacent to inventory unit MT-076-002 Blacktail Mountains, which is approximately 21,700 acres in size. The two units share the same physiographic characteristics and are clearly part of the same ecosystem.

Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation within the unit include hunting, hiking, camping, and rockclimbing.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Clark Canyon - Red Peak - Spring Gulch
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-004
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 43,060 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are several withdrawals and easements in the unit including one for a U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management repeater on Red Peak, a KXLF TV tower, five powerlines and a stock driveway.

There are several oil and gas leases covering essentially the entire unit with some applications for leases still pending in the southern end of the unit.

There are several buildings within the unit and 5 powerlines crossing the area.

The entire unit is grazed by livestock. There are 9 water tanks, 7 spring developments, 5 wells, 3 reservoirs, 3 pipelines totalling approximately 7 miles in length, and roughly 45 miles of fencing associated with this grazing.

There are 20 vehicle ways within the unit totalling roughly 55 miles in length.

Three different areas totalling approximately 2,500 acres in the northern part of the unit have been sprayed in order to eliminate sagebrush.

Roughly 300 acres within the unit in the Upper Clark Canyon area were selectively logged in the early 1960's. Numerous skid trails and logging slash are quite apparent in the area.

This is an area of diverse vegetation, topography, and wildlife. The northern part of the unit includes Upper Clark Canyon, which is a mosaic of potholes, meadows, aspen and Douglas-fir. There is a steep, dramatic drop at the head of the canyon. The part of the unit south of Clark Canyon is basically a long, high, open, grass and sage-covered ridge with badland-like topography at the southern end. The highest elevation is Red Peak at 9,240' just south of Clark Canyon and the lowest is 6,328' along Sage Creek at the extreme southern end of the unit.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): White Hills South
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-006
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 8,850 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

640 acres of State land are enclosed by this 8,850 acre unit.

There is a public water withdrawal near the southern border of the unit on Little Sage Creek.

There is one grazing allotment in the unit and several oil and gas leases which cover essentially the entire area.

There are 4 water tanks, a 3 mile pipeline, and 4 miles of fencing associated with this grazing.

There are three vehicle ways within the unit.

This is an area of broken topography that ranges in elevation from 6,414' to 7,723'. The predominant vegetation is sagebrush with some grass on the lower slopes.

The unit is adjacent to inventory unit Heifer Creek (MT-076-005) which is approximately 5,260 acres in size.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): East Fork Blacktail Deer Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-007
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 6,180 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The US Forest Service has an easement for a road up the East Fork of Blacktail Deer Creek to Indian Creek. There is also a stock driveway withdrawal along the East Fork of Blacktail Deer Creek.

There is an oil and gas lease, in the SW corner of the area.

Roughly three-quarters of the area is currently being grazed by cattle and there are 2.5 miles of fencing associated with this use.

The area receives some use in the summer by people who are camping, picnicking, hiking, and fishing in the East Fork of Blacktail Deer Creek, and a great deal of use in the fall from elk hunters.

This is an area of mixed timber, sagebrush, and grass on the western slope of the Snowcrest Range. Elevations range from 10,573' Sunset Peak on the eastern boundary to 7,200' along the East Fork of Blacktail Deer Creek.

The unit is contiguous to Forest Service lands in the Snowcrest Range to the east, and the Montana Department of Fish and Game Blacktail Game Range to the west.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Basin Creek North
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-008
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 19,420 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

200 acres of privately owned land and 920 acres of State owned land are enclosed within the 19,420 acre unit.

There are 5 withdrawals within the unit.

The entire unit has been leased for oil and gas exploration.

There is a building near the southern boundary of the unit.

Most of the unit is grazed by cattle and there is a spring development, 3 water tanks, 2 pipelines totalling 5 miles in length, 2 cattle guards and roughly 26 miles of fencing associated with this grazing.

There are 7 vehicle ways totalling roughly 15 miles in length within the inventory unit.

This is an area of rolling hills which range in elevation from 6,492' near Basin Creek to 8,160' at Vinegar Hill. Vegetation is predominantly grass, with some scattered patches of timber.

This unit is adjacent to three other inventory units: MT-076-006 White Hills South, MT-076-009 Antelope Flat, and MT-0760 Basin Creek South.

The area appears primarily natural in character. The only significant impacts of the presence of man appear to be vehicle ways and fences and other range improvements associated with livestock grazing.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Antelope Flat
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-009
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 14,130 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

The area enclosed by the inventory unit boundary excludes one parcel of non-public land. This is Sec. 16, in T13S, R8W, which is owned by the State of Montana.

There are two stock driveway withdrawals within the unit.

The entire area has been leased for oil and gas exploration.

The unit is grazed by livestock and there are approximately 15 miles of fencing.

There are 13 different vehicle ways criss-crossing the unit totalling 20 miles in length.

This is an area of rolling grass-covered hills that range in elevation from 6,000' along Sage Creek to 7,217'.

This unit is adjacent to three other inventory units; MT-076-004 Clark Canyon-Red Peak-Spring Gulch, MT-076-008 Basin Creek North; MT-076-010 Basin Creek South.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Basin Creek South
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-010
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 8,355 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Two hundred and forty acres of state land are enclosed by the 1,355 acre unit.

The unit has an extremely irregular configuration. There is a central portion of roughly 5,700 acres which contains the 240 acres of state land that are enclosed by the unit boundaries. There is a small finger (roughly 1 mile long by $\frac{1}{4}$ mile wide) of approximately 160 acres that extends to the south, and a long "tail" (roughly 7 miles long and $\frac{1}{4}$ mile wide) of approximately 2,500 acres which extends to the east and north.

There are 2 stock driveway withdrawals within the unit (124 MT 6 SO 3/15/21, 11 MT 1 SO 3/18/18), and a public water reservation (62, EO 4/18/19).

The entire area has been leased for oil and gas exploration.

There is a building in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 9.

The entire area is grazed by livestock. There are 2 spring developments and roughly 8 miles of fencing.

There are 8 vehicle ways within the unit totalling approximately 8 miles in length.

This is an area of rolling hills which range in elevation from 6,649 feet near Basin Creek to 8,739 feet near Clover Divide at the east end of the area. The predominant vegetation is grass with some sagebrush at the east end of the unit and scattered patches of timber.

This unit is adjacent to two inventory units; MT-076-008 Basin Creek North and MT-076-009 Antelope Flat.

The area appears to meet the criteria to warrant further wilderness study. The only significant impacts of the presence of man appear to be vehicle ways and fences and other range improvements associated with livestock grazing.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Lima Reservoir
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-011
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 5,360 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is a 320 acre private land inholding that is not included with the 5,360 acre unit.

Parts of the unit near Lima Reservoir have been withdrawn as Reservoir Site 4 by an Executive Order, 7/12/11.

There are 4 grazing allotments within the unit.

The entire unit has been leased for oil and gas exploration.

There is roughly 9 miles of fencing associated with grazing use.

There are 3 vehicle ways within the unit totalling roughly 4 miles in length.

This unit is a relatively level area on the shoreline of Lima Reservoir. Elevations range from 6,786 feet near the Centennial Valley Road to 6,581 feet near the reservoir. The predominant vegetation is sagebrush with some grass along the west side of the unit and a meadow on the east side.

The area appears primarily natural in character. The only significant impacts of the presence of man appear to be vehicle ways and fences and other range improvements associated with livestock grazing.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Red Rock Refuge - North
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-015
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 440 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The entire area is grazed by livestock and the perimeter is fenced except where it joins the rest of the grazing allotment on a portion of its western boundary.

This area is a south-facing hillside with a high elevation of 7,022 feet and a low elevation of 6,750 feet. Vegetation on the northern half is bunch grass, and on the southern half is Great Basin Sage. This southern half is designated a Great Basin Sage Relic Area because this type of sage is scarce in Montana.

A portion of the southern boundary is contiguous with a wilderness section of the Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge.

Works of man are substantially unnoticeable within the area, and the general remoteness of the unit contributes to opportunities for solitude.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Hidden Pasture Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-022
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: approximately 8,000 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is a stock driveway withdrawal covering the entire NW portion of the unit and a recreation withdrawal on Big Sheep Creek near Hidden Pasture Creek.

The entire unit has been leased for oil and gas exploration.

An irrigation ditch traverses the eastern portion of the unit for roughly $\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

Ninety-six percent of the unit is grazed by livestock and there are 4 spring developments, a water trough, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of plastic water pipe and roughly 10 miles of fencing associated with this grazing.

There are 6 vehicle ways within the unit totalling roughly 9 miles in length.

Approximately 3,840 acres in the northwestern portion of the unit were sprayed with 2,4-D to eliminate sagebrush in 1966.

Approximately 240 acres in the western portion of the unit were contoured and seeded in 1962.

This unit is at the southern end of the Tendoy Mtns. The western portion of the unit is a west facing slope on the east side of the Muddy Creek drainage. The southern part of the unit slopes toward Big Sheep Creek, and the eastern part slopes toward the Red Rock River Valley. Elevations range from 8,398 feet in the northwestern portion of the unit, to 5,900 feet on the eastern boundary. The predominant vegetation is sagebrush with some grass and mountain shrubs and scattered patches of timber near the Forest Service boundary. The area is similar to Great Basin vegetation types.

This unit is adjacent to inventory unit MT-076-023 which is approximately 6,720 acres in size.

The eastern and western extremes of this unit are significantly impacted by the works of man and do not have apparent wilderness potential. However, the central area and the northern extension appear to be primarily natural in character.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): East Muddy Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-023
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: approximately 6,720 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The entire unit is part of an oil shale withdrawal.

The unit is also entirely covered by oil and gas leases.

The entire unit is grazed by livestock and there are 4 spring developments and approximately 7 miles of fencing.

There are three vehicle ways within the unit, totalling approximately 4 miles in length.

Four hundred and eighty-two acres in the southern portion of the unit were contoured and seeded in 1962.

The entire unit was sprayed with 2,4-D to eliminate sagebrush in 1966.

This unit is part of the Tendency Mountains. It is a west-facing slope on the east side of the Muddy Creek drainage. Elevations range from 8,825 feet at the north end of the unit, to 6,755 feet along Muddy Creek. The predominant vegetation is sagebrush, with some grass and mountain shrubs and scattered patches of timber near the Forest Service boundary. The area is similar to Great Basin vegetation types.

The area appears primarily natural in character. The only significant impacts of the presence of man appear to be vehicle ways and fences and other range improvements associated with livestock grazing.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Camp Creek South
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-024
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 7,200 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Ownership consists of 7,200 acres of public land.

One mining claim has been registered in this unit.

There are approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of water pipeline in the east end of the unit.

The entire area is used for livestock grazing. There are over 10 miles of fence, 4 troughs, and 2 developed springs associated with this grazing.

One vehicle way traverses the extreme eastern end of the unit for approximately $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

Approximately 60% of the unit, the eastern portion, was sprayed with 2,4-D in 1965.

The area is predominantly sagebrush and grass with some scattered patches of timber in the north central portion. There is one large patch of trees that covers approximately 600 acres. The area is hilly with elevations ranging from roughly 7,388 feet to 5,540 feet. The northern and western portions drain into Camp Creek, while the southeast area drains into the Rochester Basin.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Sandy Hollow
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-025
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 7,280 acres public land

The north central part of the unit is covered by Phosphate Withdrawal Reserve 71 and the extreme south boundary includes a portion of a Reclamation withdrawal application. Also in the southern part of the area is Public Water Reserve CL 103.

The entire unit is covered by oil and gas exploration leases.

The entire unit is used for grazing. There are roughly 6 miles of fence and 3 developed springs within the area.

There are 3 vehicle ways, totalling 6 miles, within the unit.

The area is dry, predominantly sagebrush and some grassland. Hogback ridges dominate the southern part of the unit giving way to hilly terrain in the north. Elevations range from 7,840 in the north to 4,850 in the south, with 5,995 foot Black Mountain standing on the southeast boundary.

The area appears to have potential for further wilderness consideration.

Use in this area appears fairly heavy, but its impact seems to be light. The unit appears to be primarily natural. Opportunities for solitude exist because of the hilly, broken terrain.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Bell Canyon
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-026
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 8,400 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is an easement for a powerline through the NE corner of the unit.

The entire unit has been leased for oil and gas exploration.

An old irrigation ditch traverses the south end of the unit.

There is a structure just inside the northern boundary of the unit.

The main powerline which parallels I-15 up the Red Rock River Valley traverses the northeast portion of the unit for approximately one mile.

Ninety-four percent of the unit is grazed by cattle and sheep. There are approximately 10 miles of fencing, a spring development, and a reservoir.

There are 10 vehicle ways within the unit, totalling roughly 13 miles in length.

This unit is a south and east facing slope at the north end of the Tendoy Range. Elevations range from 8,427 feet to 5,920 feet. The predominant vegetation in the south end of the unit is sagebrush with some grass, and the predominant vegetation in the north end of the unit is grass with some sagebrush, mountain shrubs, and timber.

The area appears primarily natural in character. The only significant impacts of the presence of man appear to be vehicle ways and fences and other range improvements.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Limekiln Canyon
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-027
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 8520 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The western portion of the unit is part of an oil shale withdrawal. There is a powerline right-of-way through the NE corner of the unit.

The entire area has been leased for oil and gas exploration.

There is a radio tower and powerline (M 03644) within a corridor on the north side of the unit.

The entire planning unit is being used for sheep and cattle grazing. There are approximately 16 miles of fencing, 2 miles of pipeline, and 2 water troughs.

There are 4 vehicle ways within the inventory unit, totalling 6 miles in length.

This unit is an area of rolling hills at the north end of the Tendoy Range. It varies in elevation from 8,535 feet at the south end of the unit to 5,759 feet near the northeastern corner. The predominant vegetation is grass with some sagebrush, mountain shrubs, and timber.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Henneberry Ridge
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-028
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 32,400 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

The area is traversed by two powerlines, approximately 7 miles in length.

There are approximately 30 registered mining claims in this unit, primarily in the northern portion near Grasshopper Creek.

The entire unit is grazed by livestock. There are 11 miles of fence. There are at least 4 developed spring and 6 stock troughs or reservoirs scattered through the entire area. Two short water pipelines are part of these developments.

There are 14 miles of vehicle ways in the area.

The northwestern portion of the unit is adjacent to the historic town of Bannack. This was a heavy mining area and is a sightseeing and historical attraction today. There are also two prehistoric sites within this unit.

Two areas in the unit have been treated by aerial spray of 2,4-D to reduce sagebrush and improve range grass. Approximately 4 sections were sprayed in the east in 1969 with little result and approximately 5 sections were sprayed in the west in 1964 with a reduction in sagebrush. In the northwestern portion of the unit, a seeding project has been completed and there was plowing associated with the seeding.

This unit is generally hilly with Henneberry Ridge running through the eastern portion. Elevations range from a high of 7587 feet to a low of approximately 5420 feet. Sagebrush is the predominant vegetation type, with some patches of grass and timber.

Approximately 60% of the sections in this unit contain physical evidence of man's impact, including stock tanks, wells, vehicle ways, powerlines, water pipelines, fences, plowed and seeded areas, and sprayed areas. These areas are predominantly on the east and west portions of the unit. A boundary change would drop these impacted areas retaining the central portion as an inventory unit. The remaining central portion is primarily natural and possess the necessary minimal wilderness characteristics.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Bachelor Mountain
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-029
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 13,000 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The BLM holds one right-of-way along Watson Creek.

A water pipeline crosses the northeast corner of the unit and is in the unit for a distance of roughly $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

The entire unit is grazed and there is extensive, irregular fencing (appr. 18 mi) within or bordering the unit. The unit also contains at least, 3 stock troughs or reservoirs, 1 developed spring, 1 well, and 1 well with a windmill.

There are 6 vehicle ways in the area totaling 14 miles.

A minimum of 60% of the unit was sprayed with 2,4-D in 1962 to control sagebrush, and a small tract of roughly 100 acres, along the eastern border, was seeded.

The unit is rolling hill country with Bachelor Mt. dominating the landscape from its position in the southwest corner of the unit. Elevations range from 7563 feet to about 5900 feet. Watson Creek and South Fork Watson Creek are the only perennial streams in the unit and are located in the western half. Vegetation is approximately half grassland and half sagebrush, with trees occurring on and to the north of Bachelor Mt. and along South Fork Watson Creek.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Cold Spring Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-031
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 7100 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are approximately 50 registered mining claims in this area.

A powerline crosses the extreme northern end of the area for a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

The entire unit is grazed by livestock. There are approximately $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles of fence scattered through the area. There is one developed spring within the unit. The unit provides a variety of wildlife habitat including: general sage grouse habitat and strutting and nesting ground; antelope summer range and some winter range in the northern portion and yearlong deer range.

The area contains one vehicular way with a length of approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

The unit is hilly and has elevations ranging from 7036 feet to less than 5620 feet. The predominant vegetation type is sagebrush, but there are scattered large patches of grass and small areas of shrub.

The area appears to have wilderness characteristics, and is primarily natural. Opportunities for solitude and wilderness recreation exist in the drainages to Grasshopper Creek.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Garret Hill
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-033
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 1120 acres public lands

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Approximately 80 acres in the northeast corner are part of a stock driveway.

One oil and gas lease covers approximately 160 acres of the south end of the unit.

There are mining claims within the unit, but the exact number is not known at this time.

The entire unit is grazed by livestock. There is less than one mile of fence within the unit.

Less than two miles of vehicle ways exist within the unit.

Approximately 25% of the unit was sprayed with 2,4-D in 1965 and 1967.

The area is generally hilly with elevations ranging from approximately 8,240 feet to 6,470 feet. Trees cover 50% of the unit, while the remainder is scattered areas of sagebrush and grass.

The unit is contiguous with RARE II Area 1-008.

Most of this unit is not natural in character; however, the vicinity of Garret Hill and its north slope are primarily natural. This Garret Hill area will be inventoried to determine the extent of its wilderness characteristics.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Farlin Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-034
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 1,200 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Two oil and gas exploration leases cover approximately one-half of the area.

The entire unit is grazed by livestock. There is one mile of fence along the southwest boundary of the unit.

One vehicle way crosses the unit for approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile along Steel Creek. There are also two mine sites in the Steel Creek area.

The unit is hilly with drainages running generally west. Elevations range from approximately 7,760' in the northeast to 6,480' in the extreme south. The northern half and higher elevations of the unit area are heavily timbered while the southern portions and lower elevations are predominantly sagebrush.

This area is contiguous to RARE II Area 1-008, East Pioneers, which has been recommended for wilderness. This unit is a continuation of a drainage system which originates on Baldy Mountain within the wilderness.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Red Rock River Islands, #2
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-042
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: Approximately 25 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Size: all 5 islands total approximately 1 to 5 acres in size.

The islands are included in a grazing allotment and may be grazed, depending on water levels in the river. There are no permanent improvements on the islands.

All of these islands are roughly 1 acre or less, flat, and support mixed meadow and grassland vegetation types.

All contiguous lands are in BLM management.

The islands appear generally untrammelled, and there are no developments to detract from their basic naturalness.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Red Rock River Islands, #1
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-043
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 4 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The island is contained within a grazing allotment.

The island is essentially flat with a mixed meadow and marsh vegetation. It is in a remote and nearly flat area. There is some vegetative and topographic screening. There is no evidence of human activity.

UNIT DECISION

The island will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Jimmie New Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-047
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 6,320 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Approximately 4 sections in the SW portion of the unit are part of Phosphate Reserve #12.

BLM grazing allotment covers the entire unit. Most of the east portion of the unit has been leased for oil and gas exploration.

There are 2 spring developments and 10 miles of fencing. There are three areas within the unit just south of the Jimmie New Road totalling roughly 130 acres in size, that have been cleared.

There is one vehicle way within the unit.

This unit is basically a south facing slope on the north side of the Big Hole River Canyon. Elevations range from 7150' near the north boundary of the area to 5,600' along the Big Hole River. The predominant vegetation at the lower elevations is sagebrush with timber dominating at the higher elevations. There is riparian vegetation along the drainages.

The unit is primarily natural. The major impacts are on the perimeter of the unit and could be excluded by minor boundary adjustments. The unit offers opportunity for solitude and wilderness related recreation.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Maiden Rock Islands
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-051
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: Approximately 3 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The surrounding area is a bighorn sheep and deer area for all or part of the year, and the Big Hole River is a good trout fishery.

The river is used by fishermen and is accessible from the Interstate 15 via the Moose Creek exit.

The islands are primarily covered by low vegetation, a few shrubs, and possibly a few cottonwoods. The river elevation in the vicinity is approximately 5,280' and the islands are essentially flat, but in a steep canyon area of the river.

The islands are located in the Big Hole River in an area of mixed BLM and non-public land.

They appear to be in primarily a natural state. A railroad and a vehicle road impact some of these islands.

UNIT DECISION

This area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Nez Perce Hollow
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-034
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 9,750 acres public land

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Road right-of-ways exist within the boundaries in the northeast and northwest parts of the unit.

Approximately the southern half of the unit is covered by oil and gas exploration leases.

There are at least seven registered mining claims within the unit.

The entire area is grazed by livestock and there are over 12 miles of fencing within the unit. There are also 4 developed springs and 6 water troughs in the area. In Section 34 of this unit there is a plastic lined water catchment project (5001) which was completed in 1975.

Two vehicle ways traverse the area for a distance of $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Other seldom used jeep trails are visible as are many scattered mine prospect holes.

This unit is predominantly grassland with some sagebrush and mountain shrub. It is generally rolling hills draining to the east, southeast, and west. Elevations range from 6,784 to roughly 5,560.

This unit is adjacent and to the south of Roadless Area MT-076-024.

There are extensive range improvements in this unit, plus past mining activity. However, the unit appears primarily natural and may offer opportunities for wilderness experience.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): McCartney Mountain
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-058
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 8,100 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

One power/communication line traverses the extreme western edge of the unit. There is a Reclamation withdrawal application along the south boundary, and a small portion of a public water reserve lies within the east central boundary.

The entire unit is covered by oil and gas exploration leases and grazing allotments.

The area is hilly to mountainous with elevations ranging from 8,364 feet, on McCartney Mtn. to 4,960 feet. McCartney Mountain and Bell Peak dominate this unit which is timber covered in most areas above 6,000 feet. Approximately 60% of the unit is sagebrush or grass with a strip of mountain shrubs often forming a buffer between these areas and the timber.

The unit appears to be primarily natural.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Block Mountain
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-059
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 6,700 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Approximately 20% of the unit on the west side is covered by oil and gas exploration leases. Geothermal leases cover part of the unit in the central and southeast area.

The area is grazed by livestock. There are 2 miles of fencing and 1 developed spring.

One vehicle way traverses the area for 5 miles.

The area is predominantly grassland with some small patches of sage and mountain shrub. It is rolling hill country draining to the east and southeast, with elevations ranging from 6,029 to approximately 4,480.

The unit is primarily natural and appears to have the minimal wilderness characteristics necessary for consideration.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Shaky Spring
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-063
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 340 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is a reclamation withdrawal application on 40 acres in the northwest corner of the unit.

The entire unit is grazed by livestock. There is less than 1 mile of fence and developed spring within the unit.

One vehicle way leads to the private land within the unit, and traverses the unit for approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile.

The area is primarily grassland on the west leading up to mountain shrub and some scattered timber on the east. The topography ranges from flat to hilly and drains to the west. Elevations range from approximately 4710 feet to 5760.

The contiguous USFS RARE II Area 1-013 was recommended for further study. This unit is primarily natural in character and it could have potential for consolidation with the RARE II Area.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Bumby MT.
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-064
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 540 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The entire unit is grazed by livestock. There is less than one mile of fence in the area.

One vehicle way traverses roughly $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the northcentral part of the unit.

The western portion of the unit is primarily grassland, while the eastern portion is timber and timber mixed with mountain shrub. The topography is flat to hilly and drains to the northwest. Elevations in the area range from approximately 6,400 to 5,200.

This unit is contiguous with a portion of RARE II Area 1-013, which was recommended for further wilderness study by the US Forest Service.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Axolotl Lakes
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-069
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 7,300 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

A stock driveway withdrawal traverses the center of the unit from north to south.

Madison County has applied for a 50' x 50' right-of-way for a communication site.

The private lands enclosed within the unit boundaries are patented mining claims.

There are at least three unpatented mining claims inside the western boundary of the unit in the vicinity of Alder Gulch.

A 10' x 12' x 7' log building within the unit.

The entire unit is grazed by livestock. There are two spring developments and approximately 18 miles of fencing associated with this grazing.

Blue Lake supports populations of axolotls, a rare form of tiger salamander.

There are six vehicle ways within the unit totalling approximately ten miles in length.

The Axolotl Lakes are a group of seven glacial pothole lakes clustered together at the northern end of the Gravelly Range. Elevations in the area range from 9158 near the southern boundary of the unit to 6200 in the northwest corner of the unit along Alder Gulch. Vegetation in the unit is a diverse mosaic of sagebrush, aspen, mixed high elevation timber types, and meadows.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Sweetwater
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-070
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 7,750 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

An oil and gas exploration lease encompasses approximately 520 acres of the east side of the unit.

The entire unit is grazed by livestock. There are approximately 8 miles of fencing.

There are 3 developed springs and a water trough.

Two vehicle ways traverse the area from northwest to south and southeast for a total distance of approximately 9 miles.

The unit vegetation is predominantly sagebrush with a swath of juniper down the center, and some small areas of grass. The terrain is hilly to steep and elevations range from approximately 7,140 to 5,740. The unit drains in all directions from a more or less central ridge.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Elk Gulch
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-071
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 8,350 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

A stock driveway occupies approximately 480 acres of the east central portion of this unit.

The entire unit is covered by grazing allotments.

The entire unit is used for grazing. There are approximately $7\frac{1}{4}$ miles of fence.

There are also 2 developed springs and a water trough within the area.

Four vehicle ways traverse the area for a total of roughly 7 miles.

Approximately 500 acres inside the southeast boundary were part of an aerial 2 4-D spray done in 1970.

The area is predominantly sage brush with some timber area in the north and some scattered pinon and juniper. The topography is hilly to mountainous with elevations ranging from 8,348 to 6,060. The area drains generally to the south and southwest.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Pony
Inventory Unit No.: MI-076-073
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 200 acres, public lands

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is a structure just inside the boundary of the unit in T. 2 S., R. 3 W., Sec. 24, NE¹/₄.

This area is on the east slope of the Tobacco Root Range. Elevations range from 6968 in the SE corner of the unit to 5600 along Willow Creek. The predominant vegetation is grass with a stringer of timber through the center of the unit.

This unit is contiguous with the Forest Service RARE II area 1-013, Middle Mountain Tobacco Roots. The common boundary is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile long. The Forest Service recommended that this unit receive further consideration for wilderness.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Willow Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-074
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 620 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

A grazing allotment covers the entire unit.

This unit is on the east slope of the Tobacco Root Range. Elevations range from 7280' near the western boundary of the unit to 5720' along Willow Creek. Vegetation is mixed with some mountain shrubs, timber, grass and sagebrush.

The northern section of this unit is contiguous with the Forest Service RARE II area 1-013, Middle Mountain Tobacco Roots, and the southern portion is contiguous with RARE II area 1-014, Potosi. The Forest Service recommended that the section of 1-013 contiguous with this unit, and 1-014 receive further consideration for wilderness.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Upper Bear Trap
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-077
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 2,100 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

All of this area for approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile on either side of the Madison River is part of Power Site Reserve 152 and is used by the Montana Power Company for power production.

There are 3 grazing allotments within the area.

2 powerlines cross the northwest corner of the unit totalling approximately 1 mile in length.

This unit encompasses the south end of the dramatic Bear Trap Canyon which was formed at the Madison River cut through the north end of the Madison Range. The canyon is approximately 1,000 feet deep with precipitous, sparsely vegetated walls. The canyon gives way to a high sagebrush plateau to the east and west. Elevations range from 6,247 near the western boundary of the unit to 4,700 along the Madison River near the northern boundary of the unit.

The unit is contiguous with the BLM Bear Trap Primitive Area to the north, and the Forest Service RARE II area 1-549, Madison, to the east. The Forest Service recommended that this section of the Madison Roadless Area receive no further consideration for wilderness. However, this unit will be considered as contiguous lands to the Beartrap Canyon Primitive Area.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: Corral Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-079
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 400 acres, public lands

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The entire unit is grazed by livestock and there is 1.25 miles of fencing along the southern boundary associated with this grazing. There is some hunting occurring during the fall.

It is on the west slope of the Madison Range. Elevations range from 7,800' to 7,000'. The predominant vegetation is timber with some patches of sage, grass, and meadows.

This unit is contiguous with the Forest Service RARE II Area 1-549, Madison.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: Wolf Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-080
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 160 acres, public lands

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

A grazing allotment covers the entire unit.

There is 1/8 mile of abandoned irrigation ditch in the southern portion of the unit.

There is a trail up Wolf Creek which traverses the southern portion of the unit for roughly 1/2 mile.

The unit receives some use from hikers in the summer and hunters in the fall.

This unit is on the west slope of the Madison Range. Elevations range from 8,040' on the north boundary of the unit to 6,800' along Wolf Creek. The predominant vegetation is grass with some areas of little or no vegetation.

This unit is contiguous with the Forest Service RARE II Area 1-549, Madison.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: Wolf Creek South
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-081
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 40 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

A grazing allotment covers the entire unit.

There is some hunting use in the fall.

This unit is a meadow on the west slope of the Madison Range. Elevations range from 7,760' near the eastern boundary of the unit to 7,320' on the western boundary.

It is contiguous with private land which is part of the Forest Service RARE II Area 1-549, Madison.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: Bad Luck Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-082
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 640 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The entire unit is grazed by livestock and there is one-quarter mile of fencing associated with this grazing.

This unit is on the western slope of the Madison Range. Elevations range from 8,947' near the eastern boundary of the unit to 7,000' along Bad Luck Creek. The predominant vegetation is sagebrush with some patches of timber near the Forest Service boundary.

This unit is contiguous with the Forest Service RARE II Area 1-549, Madison.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Papoose Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-083
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 220 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

A grazing allotment covers the entire unit.

The Papoose Creek Irrigation Ditch parallels Papoose Creek for $\frac{1}{4}$ mile through the southern part of the unit.

This unit is on the western slope of the Madison Range. Elevations range from 6,894' near the eastern boundary of the unit to 6,200' along Papoose Creek. The vegetation is mixed with timber in the northern portion of the unit, grass in the southern portions and patches of sage and meadow.

This unit is contiguous with the Forest Service RARE II area 1-549, Madison. The Madison Roadless Area was recommended for further wilderness study in the RARE II Final Environmental Impact Statement, dated 1/79.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: Trout Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-084
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 280 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The entire unit is grazed by livestock and there is 1.25 miles of fencing associated with this grazing.

The area receives some use by hunters in the fall.

This unit is on the western slope of the Madison Range. Elevations range from 7,600 near the eastern boundary to 6,480 on the western boundary. The predominant vegetation is sagebrush with some meadows, grass, and patches of timber.

This unit is contiguous with the Forest Service RARE II Area 1-549, Madison.

UNIT DECISION

Trout Creek will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: Blind Horse Creek; Chicken Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-102
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 4,927 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is a permanent road and road right-of-way that extends into the area for about 1½ miles. The entire unit is used for grazing purposes. There are 2 pothole developments, 2 spring developments, 1 stock tank, 1½ miles of fence and 1 mile of water pipeline.

GENERAL VEGETATION AND TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES

This unit is characterized by steep slopes and interspersed grasslands and forest. It is part of the Rocky Mountain front, a unique area where mountains rise abruptly from the plains.

This unit is contiguous to the Forest Service Rare II Area A1-485, which was dropped from wilderness consideration. The BLM unit was originally proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration. However, the public comments received during the initial inventory indicated that there was strong public interest for further wilderness consideration.

The unit is less than 5,000 acres but may be of sufficient size to be a manageable wilderness area.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: Chute Mountain
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-105
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 3,085 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

All but forty acres of the unit are included in a grazing allotment. Approximately one-third of the area is covered by an oil and gas lease.

The major recreational use of the area is big-game hunting, but some hiking, camping, fishing, and sightseeing probably takes place.

The dominant features of this unit are Chute Mountain and the North Fork of Deep Creek. Deep Creek cuts a deep, steep-sided canyon through the southwest portion of the area. The summit of Chute Mountain is just outside the boundary of the northwest portion of the unit, but the unit encompasses its steep eastern slopes. The vegetation of the area is interspersed bunchgrass and timber pine savannah communities.

The unit is also part of the Rocky Mountain front, a unique area where the mountains rise abruptly from the plains without distinct foothills.

This inventory unit is contiguous to the Forest Service RARE II area PI-485. In addition, BLM inventory unit MT-075-104 is about one-half mile north and BLM inventory unit MT-075-106 is about one-half mile south of this unit.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Deep Creek/Battle Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-106
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 3,086 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Grazing allotments cover all but a small portion of the area. Oil and gas leases cover approximately three-fourths of the unit.

The majority of the area is used for grazing cattle.

There are two vehicle ways in the unit. One extends for about three-quarters of a mile up Deep Creek, and the other extends into section 19 for about a quarter-mile.

The dominant features of the area are the south fork of Deep Creek and Castle Reef. The south fork of Deep Creek cuts a deep, steep-sided canyon through the northern portion of the unit. Castle Reef is just outside the western boundary of the unit in the southern portion, but the unit includes some of its steep, east slope. The northern third of the unit is predominantly bunchgrass community while the southern two-thirds is primarily timber pine and juniper forests with scattered patches of rock outcroppings and bunchgrass. This unit is also part of the Rocky Mountain front, a unique area where the mountains rise abruptly from the plains with no distinct foothills.

The unit is contiguous to Forest Service RARE II area AI-485.

The unit has potential for further wilderness consideration, since a portion of the contiguous RARE II area (AI-485) has been allocated to further planning.

UNIT DECISION

The area will receive intensive inventory.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: North Fork of Sun River
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-107
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 196 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

An oil and gas lease covers the entire unit. A grazing allotment covers the entire area.

This unit is characterized by rolling terrain and grassland vegetation. There are no particularly outstanding features.

The unit is contiguous to the Forest Service RARE II area AI-485, which was allocated to a further planning status.

The unit appears natural, with no known human improvements. The rolling topography, open terrain and small size all tend to limit the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will receive an intensive inventory.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Beaver Meadows
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-110
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: Approximately 320 acres
(Originally 640 acres)

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

This unit originally consisted of six small scattered parcels of land. One of the six tracts is contiguous to Forest Service RARE II areas AI-485 and FI-485 which have been placed in a further planning category.

The major recreational uses of the unit are hunting, fishing, hiking, camping and sightseeing.

This unit is characterized by high mountains and very steep topography. Lower hills and draws are timber covered while higher elevations have more meadows and open areas.

UNIT DECISION

The area contiguous to the Forest Service RARE II unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Elkhorn
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-114
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 5,655 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are three rights-of-way within the unit. The first is associated with a vehicle way that runs along Golconda Creek for about two miles. The second is associated with a vehicle way that runs along Nursery Creek for about two miles. The third is associated with a permanent road that provides access to the private land from the west.

The unit is completely within a grazing allotment.

There are five patented mining claims within the unit boundary.

There are three and a half miles of fence in portions of the unit.

There are two vehicle ways within the unit. One runs along Golconda Creek for about one mile and the other runs along Nursery Creek for about two miles.

There is evidence of past mining activity on both private and public lands.

The unit is characterized by relatively steep, irregular topography, ranging in elevation from 5,000 to 8,000 feet. The vegetation is primarily coniferous forest.

This unit is contiguous to the congressionally designated Forest Service Elkhorn Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Black Sage
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-115
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 5,926 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Grazing allotments cover the entire unit.

The entire unit is used for grazing. There are five miles of fence, and six spring developments with stock tanks.

There are two vehicle ways within the unit totalling approximately 1 1/4 miles in length.

Some oil and exploration appears to have taken place in the past.

The unit is characterized by relatively steep, irregular topography, ranging in elevation from 5000 to 6000 feet. The predominant vegetation type is juniper, but some areas of grassland exist.

The unit appears natural with only a few range improvements as evidence of man's influence. These do not have a significant impact on the unit.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Unnamed
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-123
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 22 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit is an unnamed island in the Missouri River that is entirely public land.

Some fishing, floatboating, and waterfowl hunting probably takes place in this unit.

The island is generally flat with riparian vegetation.

UNIT DECISION

The island will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Unnamed
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-124
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 12 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit is an unnamed public land island in the Missouri River. There are no private inholdings.

The island is part of a power site withdrawal.

Some floatboating, fishing and waterfowl hunting probably takes place on this island.

The island is relatively flat with few, if any, trees and riparian vegetation.

UNIT DECISION

The island will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Unnamed
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-125
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 5 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

This unit is an unnamed public land island in the Missouri River. It has no private inholdings.

The island is probably used for some floatboating and fishing use.

The island is generally flat with riparian vegetation.

UNIT DECISION

The island will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Unnamed
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-126
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 17 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The island is part of a power site withdrawal.

Some boating and fishing use probably occurs on this island.

This island is generally flat with few, if any, trees.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Unnamed
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-133
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 53 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

This unit consists of an unnamed public land island in the Yellowstone River.

This island probably receives some fishing and float boating use.

This island is relatively flat and open with some strands of cottonwood on the western end.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Unnamed
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-134
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 23 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Some float boating and fishing probably takes place on this island. This island is relatively flat and open with some cottonwoods on the eastern edge.

There are no known man made impacts on this island and it is probably in a natural state.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Unnamed (Islands)
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-138
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 40 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Both islands are part of a power site withdrawal.

These islands are probably used for some float boating, fishing and waterfowl hunting.

These islands are relatively flat and open with typical Missouri River riparian vegetation.

These islands have no known human improvements and appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Hoodoo
Inventory Unit No.: MT-074-151
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 18,600 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

A cooperative right of way agreement exists between the BLM and Champion Timberlands and includes all of the land within the inventory unit.

A Tramroad Permit also covers the use of an existing road.

Oil and Gas Lease Applications are scattered throughout the unit.

Land improvements consist of: Approximately 15.5 miles of fence, three developed springs and approximately 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles of BLM maintained roads associated with timber sales in the northern portion of the unit.

The area is leased for domestic livestock grazing, with the exception of about 3800 acres along Wet Cottonwood Creek and 2500 acres along Gallagher Creek.

There are approximately 10 miles of vehicular ways.

Logging has occurred on approximately 900 acres in the northern portion of the unit.

The unit is a mixture of forested land and open areas. The dominant overstory species are Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. Douglas-fir is mainly along the lower north and east facing slopes. Large stands of lodgepole pine occur on higher slopes and in the Wet Cottonwood Creek drainage. Englemann spruce are found along stream bottoms while subalpine fir exist on the northeast slopes of Devil Mountain. Main understory species are pine grass, grouse whortleberry, beargrass, and huckleberry. There are numerous open grassland parks scattered throughout the unit and there are several large and unique meadows along Wet Cottonwood Creek. The dominant grasses are bluebunch wheatgrass in the parks and blue joint wheatgrass in the meadows.

Elevations range from 5000 to 7400 feet. Steep slopes are interspersed with flat and rolling areas. Gallagher Creek contains numerous rock escarpments and has many steep side drainages while in comparison upper Wet Cottonwood Creek appears to be a high and somewhat broader drainage with gentler slopes and large meadows.

The unit offers the opportunity for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. These values are enhanced by the variety of topography and the size of the unit.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Quigg West Tackon
Inventory Unit No.: MT-074-155
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 520 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS

Big game hunting comprises the major use.

Conifer cover of Douglas-fir except for an open grassland in the SE¼NW¼ of Section 8. The unit is bisected by two steep gulches (Capron and Sheep). Drainage is to the west into Rock Creek. Side slopes approach 70 percent.

The unit is contiguous to the U.S. Forest Service RARE II Quigg West Area #QI-807 to the west and north and appears to possess the same wilderness qualities of naturalness, solitude and opportunities for primitive types of recreation.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

Butte District

Units To Be Dropped From Wilderness Consideration

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Heifer Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-005
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 5,260 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are 4 grazing allotments within the unit.

There is one oil and gas lease in the west end of the unit.

There are 6 different vehicle ways totalling roughly 8 miles in length.

This is an area of rolling hills that range in elevation from 6,731' along Sage Creek to 8,565'. The predominant vegetation is sagebrush with some patches of grass and scattered timber.

This unit does not appear to possess the minimum wilderness characteristics necessary for further inventory and review. The works of man are evident in every portion of this unit. The unit was erroneously omitted on the proposed initial inventory map.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): East Fork Little Sheep Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-012
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 600 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is one grazing allotment within the area.

The entire area has been leased for oil and gas exploration.

This unit is in the foothills of the majestic Lima Peaks. Elevations within the area range from 8,120' near the southern boundary to 7,100' near the northern boundary. The principal drainage in the area is the East Fork of Little Sheep Creek. The predominant vegetation in the northern part of the area is sagebrush, while stands of Douglas-fir dominate the southern part of the area. There is a great deal of riparian vegetation along the East Fork of Little Sheep Creek.

The unit is adjacent to a Forest Service RARE II Area (Garfield 1-961). The Garfield area was recommended for nonwilderness status.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Lima Peaks
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-013
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 2,240 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are 2 grazing allotments within the unit.

The entire area has been leased for oil and gas exploration.

This area is in the foothills of the majestic Lima Peaks. Elevations range from 8,625' at the south end of the area to 6,440' at the north end. The predominant vegetation is sagebrush with fingers of timber in the southern part of the area.

The unit is adjacent to a Forest Service RARE II Area (Garfield 1-961). The Garfield area was recommended for nonwilderness status.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Fish Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-016
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 7,370 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The northwest corner of the unit is a stock driveway.

There are three grazing allotments within the area.

There are several oil and gas leases which cover the unit.

The area is in the northern part of the Centennial Valley. Vegetation is predominantly sagebrush type with the exception of a bunchgrass community along the Fish Creek drainage, wet meadow along other water courses, and two small patches of timber in Section 4.

The area is hilly with generally north/south drainages. The highest point in the unit is Antelope Peak (8,280'), in the southern part of the unit. Also in the southern part of the area is the lowest elevation, 6,760'.

The configuration of the unit decreases the opportunity for solitude although the unit is primarily in a natural condition. The lay of the topography does not coincide with the shape of the unit, and vegetation offers little screening value. There is no opportunity for boundary changes to eliminate the narrow configurations as the remaining strips would not be of 5,000 acres.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Deadman Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-018
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 2,850 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

This unit is divided into 2 separate sections by the Medicine Lodge Pass Road.

There is one powerline right-of-way through 18A (see map) and another one through 18B. There is a stock driveway withdrawal along the entire west side of 18B.

There 2 grazing allotments within the unit.

All of 18B has been leased for oil and gas exploration, and there are applications pending for leases on all of 18A.

There is a structure just inside the boundary of the unit in T. 15 S., R. 10 W., Sec. 9. A powerline bisects 18A; approximately 1.5 miles of this powerline are within the unit boundaries.

A 2nd powerline parallels Big Sheep Creek along the northern boundary of the unit. Approximately 1.5 miles of this powerline are within the unit boundaries.

There is an area of mining spoils within the unit. The private land which is enclosed within the unit boundaries is irrigated cropland.

This is an area of rolling hills which range in elevation from 7,909' along the southern boundary of the area to 6,720' along Big Sheep Creek. The predominant vegetation is sagebrush with some grasses and patches of timber.

18A is contiguous with the Forest Service RARE II Area 1-945, Italian Peaks. 18B is contiguous with the Forest Service RARE II Area 1-961, Garfield. The Forest Service recommended that the adjacent lands be given non-wilderness status.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Meadow Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-019
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 1,000 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are 2 grazing allotments within this unit.

The entire east side of the unit is part of an oil and gas lease; and there is an oil and gas lease application which covers the remainder of the unit.

This is gently rolling terrain in the Upper Big Sheep Creek basin. Elevations within the unit range from 7,704' to 7,284'. The predominant vegetation is sagebrush with some grass and greasewood.

This unit is contiguous with the Forest Service RARE II Area 1-945, Italian Peaks. The Forest Service recommended that the land adjacent to this unit be given non-wilderness status.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Coyote Lakes
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-020
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 1,200

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Parts of 2 grazing allotments cover this unit.

The north half of the unit has been leased for oil and gas exploration; and there is an oil and gas lease application pending for the southern half of the unit.

There are 2 spring developments and 8 miles of fencing associated with grazing.

There are 3 vehicle ways within the unit totalling approximately 2 miles in length.

This unit is approximately 2 miles east of the Continental Divide. It is an east facing slope that ranges in elevation from 8,642' on the western boundary of the unit to 7,600' on the eastern boundary. The small pothole Coyote Lakes are within the unit. The predominant vegetation is sagebrush with some grass, and heavy growths of riparian vegetation along the stream courses.

Portions of this unit are adjacent to a RARE II area that the Forest Service recommended be nonwilderness.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Caboose Canyon
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-021
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 8,500 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are 3 stock driveway withdrawals in the unit. There is approximately 60 acres of a withdrawal within the unit boundaries. The entire north end of the unit is part of an oil shale withdrawal.

There are 4 grazing allotments within the area.

The entire area has been leased for oil and gas exploration.

Corrals and a shed have been constructed just within the eastern boundary of the unit in T. 14 S., R. 10 W., Sec. 27, NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

Approximately 3,000 acres in the northern part of the unit were sprayed in order to eradicate sagebrush in 1963.

This unit is in the foothills of the Tendency Mountain Range. It is basically a south and east facing slope that ranges in elevation from 6,518' near Big Sheep Creek to 8,048' near the western boundary of the area. The predominant vegetation is grass with some areas of sagebrush and mountain shrub, and scattered stands of timber.

This area appears to be primarily natural in character; however, it does not meet the necessary minimal wilderness characteristics. The unit is essentially two blocks of public lands of about 4,000 and 3,000 acres separated by a $\frac{1}{2}$ -to- $\frac{3}{4}$ mile wide by 3 mile long strip of public lands along a slope within view of a road. This central portion is obviously and clearly not wilderness in character and neither end has sufficient acreage to be considered independently.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Timber Butte
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-030
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 9,880 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The area consists of 9,880 acres of public land.

A powerline runs through the center of this unit for a distance of approximately $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

The entire unit is covered by grazing allotments.

There are 20 to 30 registered mining claims in this area.

2 short water pipelines ($3\frac{3}{4}$ mile total), associated with spring development, are located in T. 8 S., R. 10 W., Sec. 21.

An area of approximately 1,300 acres, in the southern portion of the unit, was sprayed with 2,4-D in 1968.

The unit is hilly and has elevations ranging from 6,881 feet to less than 5,620 feet. The predominant vegetation type is sagebrush but there are scattered large patches of grass, small areas of shrub, and a tract of timber on Timber Butte.

The impact of 2 major powerlines and the intensity of livestock grazing improvements significantly detract from the naturalness of the area.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Red Butte
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-032
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 5,350 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit boundaries enclose approximately 5,350 acres of public land, and 20 acres of private land.

There are 4 grazing allotments.

The area has been covered by oil and gas leases.

The 20-acre enclosure of private land is a patented mining claim.

A telephone line traverses the south of the unit. Approximately 1.5 miles of this line are within the unit.

Over 450 acres of the unit, in the area of Red Butte, were sprayed with 2,4-D in 1970. In the northwest corner, 480 acres were plowed and 577 acres seeded in 1960.

The area is generally hilly to mountain foothills in the north. Red Butte (6687) dominates the southern end, while elevations over-all range from roughly 7,610 feet to 6,000 feet. Drainages within the unit run basically west into Grasshopper Creek. 1 perennial stream is located in the northwestern part of the unit. There is 1 patch of productive timber (approximately 400 acres) in the northeast, otherwise there is timber along the hilltops and ridges. Other areas are mixed sagebrush and grass, with some mountain shrub in the north.

2 non-natural impacts reduce the unit's size below the 5,000 acre minimum.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Berry Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-035
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 70 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS

The unit is a northeast facing slope covered by lodgepole pine. It is contiguous with RARE II area Number 1-943, which was dropped from further wilderness study.

The general remoteness of the area, screening vegetation, and contiguity with additional roadless public lands contribute to opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

This approximately 70 acre unit is of insufficient size to warrant further wilderness consideration.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from the wilderness inventory.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Miner Lake
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-036
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 105 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit is an almost uniform east-facing slope with a total relief of approximately 80'. The vegetation is primarily lodgepole pine.

The unit is contiguous with RARE II area 1-943. Area 1-943 was recommended for nonwilderness by the U.S. Forest Service.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from intensive inventory.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Swamp Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-037
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 520 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are 2 grazing allotments within the unit. The entire unit is covered by an oil and gas lease.

The unit is an even-sloping wetland. Elevations range from 6,880' on the west end to 6,540' on the east. Vegetation is primarily wet grass and willow types.

The unit is contiguous with RARE II area Number 1-943. The Forest Service has recommended nonwilderness for this RARE II area.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Rock Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-038
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 600 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

This unit is covered by one grazing allotment. There is one gas and oil lease.

Approximately 260 acres of this unit were logged by clearcutting in 1970.

The area is hilly with slopes generally facing northeast. Elevations in the unit range from 6,960' in the west to 6,580' in the east. The primary vegetation type is lodgepole pine with mixed sage and grass areas.

The unit is contiguous with RARE II area No. 1-943. The U.S. Forest Service recommended nonwilderness for area 1-943.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Plimpton Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-039
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 40 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The entire area is part of a grazing allotment. The unit is also part of oil and gas lease M-38000.

The unit is square and predominantly an east facing slope with elevations ranging from approximately 6,440' to 6,200'. The vegetation is lodgepole pine on approximately 2/3 of the area and sage on the remainder.

The unit is contiguous with RARE II area 1-001, recommended for nonwilderness status by the Forest Service.

The area appears generally natural, and there are no works of man within the boundaries of the area.

However, this approximately 40 acre unit is of insufficient size for consideration.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Thompson Creek - West
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-040
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 41 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The entire unit is covered by a grazing allotment.

The area is generally south facing with a foothills sage type vegetation. Elevations range from 6,480' to 6,120'.

The area is contiguous with RARE II area 1-001. The contiguous portion of area 1-001 was recommended for nonwilderness by the Forest Service.

The area is primarily natural. It lacks screening vegetation and is small in size, approximately 300 by 600 yards.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Thompson Creek - East
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-041
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 160 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The entire area is included in a grazing allotment.

The land in this unit is generally east facing with elevations ranging from approximately 6,460' to 6,200'. It contains timber, sage, and grass vegetation.

The unit is contiguous with RARE II area 1-001, recommended for nonwilderness status by the Forest Service.

The area is small but has some screening vegetation and topography. There are no permanent works of man within the boundaries.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Lima Reservoir Island
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-044
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 2 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

This island lies on the section line between Sec. 1 and 2, T. 14 S., R. 5 W. That portion of the island in Sec. 2 is in public ownership.

The island is essentially flat with sparse, early successional vegetation of grass, forbs and willows. It appears to be formed of alluvial material.

The island is highly visible from adjacent shorelines and roads in a relatively flat area. There is no screening vegetation nor topography.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Clark Canyon Reservoir Island-South
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-045
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 20 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The island lies in the southern end of Clark Canyon Reservoir and is entirely in public ownership.

The island has a total relief of 65 feet. The reservoir highwater line is at 5,560 feet, while the highest point on the island is 5,625 feet.

Vegetation on the island is sparse bunchgrasses and sagebrush.

There are no opportunities for solitude or primitive and confined recreation.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Clark Canyon Reservoir Islands-North
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-046
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 25 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

These 3 islands lie in Clark Canyon Reservoir and are totally in public ownership.

The large island is about 23 acres; the 2 small adjacent islands are about 1 acre each.

Total relief for the large island is 210 feet. The reservoir highwater mark is 5,560 feet, while the highest point on the island is 5,770 feet.

The 2 small islands have little relief. Vegetation on the islands is sparse bunchgrass and sagebrush.

Ownership patterns, size and lack of topographic or vegetation screening eliminate wilderness opportunities on these islands.

UNIT DECISION

The islands will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Titan Gulch Island
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-048
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 1/4 acre

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

This is an island located in the Big Hole River.

Approximately the east half of this island is in public ownership. It lies in the Big Hole River in T. 1 S., R. 11 W., Sec. 1 and T. 1 S., R. 10 W., Sec. 6.

The entire island is 1/4 acre or less and oval-shaped with the long axis north/south. The public portion would be roughly 20' by 100' at most.

There is little or no vegetation on this island, which is generally a small gravel bar. The river elevation is approximately 5,670 feet.

The land ownership pattern, the size of the island, the lack of vegetation and screening, and the nearness of a State Highway preclude any wilderness opportunity.

UNIT DECISION

This island will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Pigeon Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-049
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 560 acres, public lands

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The entire unit is covered by a grazing allotment.

Timber covers 80% of this unit, which is hilly and slopes to the north and east. Unit elevations range from approximately 7,120 to 6,160 and drainages in the area run generally east.

The unit is contiguous with RARE II Area 1-431. RARE II Area 1-431 was not recommended for further wilderness consideration.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Dry Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-050
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 160 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The entire unit is part of a grazing allotment.

Timber covers 90% of this unit, which is hilly and slopes to the east. Elevations in the unit range from approximately 7,200 to 6,720'.

The unit is contiguous with RARE II Area 1-431. RARE II Area 1-431 was not recommended for further wilderness consideration.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Camp Creek North
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-052
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 7,800 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Public Water Reserve 77 is located within the unit on 80 acres.

The area is covered by grazing allotments.

There are over 70 registered mining claims in this unit.

Approximately 5½ sections of this unit were sprayed with 2,4-D.

The area is predominantly sagebrush with areas of mountain shrub and some patches of timber. 5 timber patches are in the unit, with the largest being roughly 700 acres. The area is hilly to mountainous, with elevations ranging from 7,877 on the King and Queen Hill in the northeast, to roughly 5,320 on the west, near Camp Creek.

Evidence of earth moving, scars from exploration, and vehicle ways are extensive and scattered throughout the unit.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Big Mountain
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-053
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 960 acres, public lands

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The entire unit is covered by a grazing allotment.

One BLM spraying project covers 320 acres of the area.

The unit is predominantly grass and sage with 2 small patches of timber. Big Mountain dominates the unit, and elevations range from 8,808 to approximately 7,200'.

The unit is contiguous with RARE II Area 1-431. RARE II Area 1-431 was not recommended for further wilderness consideration.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Rock Springs Ranch
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-055
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 5,500 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are 40 acres of this unit that are covered by public water reserve 107.

The entire unit is covered by grazing allotments.

There are 3 water pipelines within the unit.

Approximately 1,100 acres in the northern part of the unit were sprayed with 2,4-D in 1970.

The area is predominantly sagebrush covered hills with some grass and mountain shrub in scattered areas. Elevations range from 7,200 feet at Hell's Peak in the north, to approximately 4,640 feet near the Jefferson River on the east end of the unit.

This area is extremely irregular in configuration. It is an assortment of generally $\frac{1}{2}$ mile wide extensions grouped in a quite random manner. This configuration would minimize the opportunity for wilderness characteristics to exist in an area of this type of vegetation and terrain.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Brown's Gulch
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-056
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 5,500 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The area is covered by oil and gas exploration leases. The entire unit is covered by grazing allotments.

The unit is predominantly sagebrush with some small areas of grass, and there is riparian vegetation along Brown's Gulch on the unit's southern boundary. The area is hilly and slopes generally to the southeast.

The area adjoins the Beaverhead National Forest on the west.

A powerline bisects the unit, forming essentially 2 units of insufficient size. A road and corridor also nearly bisect the unit.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Anglers Paradise Islands
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-057
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: Approximately 4 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

2 islands are involved in this unit, with all of the upstream island and part of the downstream island in public ownership. They lie in the Big Hole River 5 miles south of Melrose.

The islands lie in an area partially covered by a grazing allotment.

The area is also covered by an oil and gas exploration lease.

This area of the river is a cottonwood bottom, flat on the east bank and steep to vertical on the west bank. The upstream island has little or no vegetation, and the downstream island is primarily covered with cottonwood trees. The river elevation is approximately 5,040 feet and the islands are essentially flat.

No opportunity for solitude or wilderness recreation experience exists on the islands because of size, ownership, and adjacent human activity.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Willow Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-060
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 6,500 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

A transmission line traverses the eastern half of the unit, north/south, for approximately 5 miles. A power/communication line cuts across an eastern arm of the area for a distance of $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.

The entire unit is covered grazing allotments.

The entire unit is also covered by oil and gas exploration leases.

This entire unit is predominantly sagebrush covered hills which drain to the east. Elevations range from approximately 6,680 feet on the west edge to 5,120 feet on the east.

The area adjoins the Beaverhead National Forest on the west.

Though the area appears primarily natural, the powerline effects the apparent naturalness of the unit.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Sodak Mill Island
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-061
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 50 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

This unit consists of 2 islands in the Big Hole River just north of the old Sodak Mill.

The unit includes 200 acres of private islands with 50 acres of public lands.

Both islands are grazed by livestock.

Both islands are lush cottonwood bottoms with heavy growths of riparian vegetation. A web of small side sloughs laces both islands. The main channel of the Big Hole River forms the northern boundary of the westernmost island and the southern boundary of the eastern island. Side channels form the southern boundary of the western island and northern boundary of the eastern island. The elevation of the islands is approximately 4,800'.

The islands are primarily natural but the proportion of Federal ownership is so small that wilderness classification would not be practical.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Point of Rocks Islands
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-062
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: Approximately 10 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

4 islands are the primary focus of this unit, although a network of small channels may subdivide the islands depending on water levels. 3 of the islands are partially in public ownership and 1 appears to be totally in public ownership. They are in the Jefferson River near Point of Rocks in T. 1 N., R. 4 W., Sec. 32.

A reclamation withdrawal application covers this area of the Jefferson River.

The islands lie in an area covered by a grazing allotment.

These islands range from gravel bar to cottonwood grove in vegetative cover. They have very little relief and the elevation of the river is approximately 4,390 feet in this unit. The east bank of the river rises sharply up a bluff while the west bank is relatively flat.

The opportunity for solitude or wilderness related recreation does not exist in this area because of the adjacent roads and farm lands. Public ownership is also a problem.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Dry Gulch
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-065
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 1,260 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is 1 mining claim in the the southwestern part of this area.

The area is hilly to mountainous with many rock outcrops. Patches of grass in the northern and lower portions quickly give way to timber and mountain shrub. At the south end of the unit there are approximately 300 acres of timberland. Elevations range from 8,148 to roughly 5,680.

This unit is contiguous for approximately 1 mile with a portion of RARE II area 1-013, which was not recommended for further wilderness consideration.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Georgia Gulch
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-066
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 1,200 acres, public ownership

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The main portion of the unit is covered by a grazing allotment.

The area is hilly to mountainous and is predominately covered by sagebrush. There is some riparian vegetation in the drainages and a small patch of timber in the northern part of the unit. The unit drains generally south and elevations range from approximately 7,400 to 5,520.

This area is contiguous with RARE II area 1-013, with the common boundary being approximately 3/4 mile in length. RARE II area 1-013, was not recommended for further wilderness consideration.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Mill Gulch
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-067
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 2,100 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The entire area is covered by grazing allotments.

The area is predominantly conifers with some sage in the north and predominantly sage with some conifer in the south. There is 1 timber area of roughly 500 acres in the northeast. The unit drains to the south, and elevations range from approximately 7,360 to 5,980.

This unit is contiguous for 2 miles with RARE II area 1-013, within the Beaverhead National Forest, which was not recommended for further wilderness consideration.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Jasmine Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-068
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 4,800 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

With the exception of approximately 300 acres at the north end of the unit, the entire area is covered by a coal reserve withdrawal.

The entire area is covered by grazing allotments.

There are at least 3 registered mining claims in this unit.

The area is hilly to somewhat mountainous and drains generally to the west. Elevations range from approximately 8,606 feet to 6,040 feet. The vegetation is predominantly conifers with areas of meadow, sage, and piñon juniper.

This area is contiguous with the Beaverhead National Forest on the east.

The unit is primarily natural in character and the terrain and vegetation patterns offer opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

The area is too small for wilderness consideration. Public support for further consideration was lacking in the review process.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Belmont
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-072
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 4,940 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Approximately 440 acres on the east side of the unit are included in a Coal Reserve Withdrawal.

The entire area is covered by grazing allotments.

Approximately 2 miles of water pipeline traverse the center of the unit.

The area is generally hilly with some steep-sided drainages. Portions of the unit are excluded from surface mineral location due to high erosion hazard. The predominant vegetation is grass with some riparian vegetation in drainage bottoms. Elevations in the unit range from 6,648 to approximately 5,740.

The unit is not of sufficient size. A more accurate acreage determination yielded only 4,940 acres in this unit. It was originally roughly estimated at 5,000 acres. There was no public support for this unit to stay in the review process.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Sugar Loaf Mountain
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-075
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 3,400 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

5 grazing allotments cover the unit.

This unit is on the east slope of the Tobacco Root Mountains. Elevations range from 7121' on Sugar Loaf Mountain to 5130' along Hot Springs Creek. The predominant vegetation is timber with some sagebrush and riparian vegetation along the drainage. This unit contains one of the most varied vegetative communities in the Resource Area.

This unit is contiguous with the Forest Service RARE II area 1-014, Potosi. The Forest Service recommended that the Potosi Area receive no further consideration for wilderness.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Upper Bear Trap Islands
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-078
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: $\frac{1}{4}$ acre

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

This unit consists of 2 small islands in the Madison River in the Upper Bear Trap area. All the land in the vicinity of the islands is in public ownership.

The islands are approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ acre in size.

These islands are included in Power Site Reserve 152.

The elevation is approximately 4,800'. There is little or no vegetation.

This section of the river is subject to artificial flow, and the number and size of the islands can vary according to the water level. The islands are not natural because of this flow fluctuation.

UNIT DECISION

The islands will be dropped from further wilderness inventory. They are located within the vicinity of a dam, powerhouse, roads and conduct.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Patton Gulch Islands
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-085
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 2½ acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

3 islands are involved in this unit, with all of 1 (1 acre) and parts of 2 islands (1 acre of a 10 acre island and ½ acre of a 1 acre island) in public ownership. The islands are in the Big Hole River in the vicinity of Patton Gulch upstream from Wise River, in T. 1 N., R. 11 W., Sec. 29.

The islands are in an area covered by a grazing allotment.

The islands are covered by low vegetation with possibly a few large shrubs or small trees. The river elevation is approximately 5,720 feet, and the islands are essentially flat. Land south of the river is flat while north of the river is steep and hilly.

Ownership patterns, size and lack of topographic or vegetation screening eliminate wilderness opportunities on these islands.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness inventory.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Fishtrap Islands
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-086
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 3 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

2 islands are involved in this unit. 1 island is of ½ acre or less while the other includes approximately 2½ acres on the downstream end of a larger island. The islands are in the Big Hole River in the vicinity of Fishtrap Creek, in T. 1 N., R. 13 W., Sec. 4.

The islands are in an area covered by a grazing allotment.

The islands are predominantly low vegetation from grasses to small shrubs, and a few small trees. The elevation in the area is approximately 5,860 feet and the total relief on the islands is less than 20 feet. Land on the east side of the river is hilly while the west side is flat.

Lack of solitude, limited wilderness related recreation, and ownership patterns severely limit wilderness potential.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness inventory.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Sawlog Creek Islands
Inventory Unit No.: MT-076-087
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 6 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

3 islands are involved in this unit, with all or a portion of each island in public ownership. The islands are in the vicinity where Sawlog Creek enters the Big Hole River in T. 1 N., R. 13 W., Sec. 8, 17 and 18.

Roughly 2 acres of a 4 acre island and 2 small islands of 1 acre and 3 acres.

The islands are in an area covered by a grazing allotment.

The islands have only low vegetation including a few small trees or shrubs. The elevation is approximately 5,860 feet and none of the islands have more than about 20 feet of total relief.

Ownership patterns, size, lack of solitude and limited wilderness recreation opportunity dismisses these islands from consideration.

UNIT DECISION

The islands will be dropped from further wilderness inventory.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Black Leaf Canyon
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-101
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 37 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

An oil and gas lease covers the entire unit.

The unit is entirely within a grazing allotment.

There is one vehicle way which extends into the area for about a half mile.

The unit is characterized by steep slopes and dense forest. It is just east of Volcano Reef and is part of the Rocky Mountain front, a unique area where the mountains rise out of the plains with no distinct foothills.

The unit is contiguous to the Forest Service RARE II area, AL-485, which was dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area: Indian Head Rock
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-103
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 78 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit is covered entirely by a grazing allotment.

The unit is dominated by Indian Head Rock which has particularly steep slopes on the north and east sides. It is part of the Rocky Mountain front, a unique area where the mountains rise abruptly from the plains with no distinct foothills.

The unit is contiguous to the Forest Service RARE II area AI-485, which has been dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Ear Mountain
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-104
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 765 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Approximately 160 acres on the southern portion of this unit is used for cattle grazing.

One vehicle way extends for about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile into the area.

GENERAL VEGETATION AND TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES

The dominant feature of the unit is Ear Mountain, 8,580 feet, with its rock outcroppings and steep talus slopes. The remainder of the area is primarily timber pine savannah. This unit is part of the Rocky Mountain front, a unique area where the mountains rise abruptly from the plains with no distinct foothills.

The unit is contiguous to the Forest Service RARE II Area AI-485, which was dropped from wilderness consideration.

The unit would have potential for further wilderness consideration if the contiguous RARE II area had been allocated to wilderness or further planning.

This unit is virtually natural in character. The only human impact is one small vehicle way. This way is $\frac{1}{4}$ mile long and its overall impact is negligible.

A number of letters received during the initial inventory comment period indicated support for further wilderness consideration. However, the area was considered to be too small to be managed as a viable wilderness unit. Designation of the unit as an area of critical environmental concern should be considered as an alternative to wilderness.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Sawtooth Ridge
Inventory Unit No.: MT-025-108
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 68 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The major recreational use of the area is hunting, hiking, camping, and sightseeing.

The unit is characterized by steep slopes and stands of timber. There are two dominant topographic features just outside the unit boundary. One is Lime Ridge to the west, and the other is Roost Hill to the north.

The unit is contiguous to the Forest Service RARE II area A1-485, which was dropped from wilderness consideration.

The unit is in a natural condition, with no known human improvements. Opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude are limited by the small size of the area.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Smith Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-109
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 244 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The northern parcel is 90 acres in size and the southern parcel is 159 acres in size, for a total area of 244 acres.

An oil and gas lease application covers the entire southern parcel.

The major recreational use of the unit is hunting, but some hiking, camping, and sightseeing also occur.

The unit is characterized by steep slopes and conifer forests.

The unit is contiguous to the Forest Service RARE II area A1-485, which was dropped from wilderness consideration.

This unit appears to be natural with no known human improvements. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are limited by the size of the area.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Sleeping Giant
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-111
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 6,858 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is a powerline right-of-way that runs through the eastern portion of the unit for about four and a half miles. There is another powerline that runs through the north west corner of the unit for about one-eighth of a mile.

Grazing allotments cover the entire unit.

Several oil and gas leases and lease applications cover most of the unit.

There are eleven known, registered, unpatented mining claims within the unit.

There are two powerlines that pass through portions of the unit. One crosses four and a half miles on the eastern portion and the other crosses one-eighth mile of the northwestern corner.

There is about one mile of fence within the unit.

There is also a vehicle way associated with the powerline that runs through the eastern portion of the unit.

There has been some contour furrowing in the area of an old fire.

The dominant feature of this unit is the "Sleeping Giant," a figure formed by Beartooth Mountain and an adjacent mountain when viewed from the south. The topography is generally rugged with steep hills and sheer cliffs around Beartooth Mountain. This rugged topography gives way to rolling hills in the vicinity of Holter Lake. However, more than half the unit is douglas fir forest, with the untimbered areas being predominantly mountain bunchgrass vegetation types.

This unit is essentially natural in character.

The unit contains 6858 acres of public land, this land is not all contiguous.

UNIT DECISION

This area does not meet the size criteria of 5,000 acres or more of contiguous land. The public land in the unit is in a checker board pattern. It will therefore be dropped from wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Lazyman Gulch
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-112
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 705 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit consists of 5 separate parcels, all of which are bounded by Forest Service administered land on 1 side and private land on the other 3 sides. All of the parcels are entirely public land with no private inholdings.

Parcel 1 is 80 acres; parcel 2 is 240 acres, parcel 3 is 80 acres, parcel 4 is 265 acres; and parcel 5 is 40 acres, for a total area of 705 acres.

A grazing allotment covers all of parcels 4 and 5 and the southern portion of parcel 3.

All 5 parcels are characterized by steep slopes but there is significant variation in vegetation. Parcel 1 is almost entirely covered by conifer forest, 2/3 of which is predominantly douglas fir and the remaining 1/3 primarily ponderosa pine. Parcel 2 is covered almost entirely by douglas fir, 25% grassland and 10% lodgepole pine. Parcel 5 is approximately 3/4 douglas fir and 1/4 lodgepole pine.

The unit is contiguous to the Forest Service RARE II area 1-608 Lazyman Gulch. This area was allocated to nonwilderness.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Specimen Creek/Trail Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-113
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 1,000 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Oil and gas lease applications cover the entire unit.

There is an old cabin located just north of the Stemple Pass Road.

There is a spring development and a half mile of fencing along the western boundary, both associated with the grazing use of the unit.

There is one vehicle way that cuts diagonally across Sec. 8 and is about 1 mile long.

There appears to have been some past mineral prospecting just north of the Stemple Pass Road.

The unit is characterized by moderately steep slopes and interspersed patches of Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, and grassland.

This unit is contiguous to the Forest Service RARE II area 1-603. This area was allocated to nonwilderness.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness inventory.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Limestone Hills East
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-116
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 11,800 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are 3 road right-of-ways that total about 10 miles and a powerline right-of-way that cuts across the area for about 4 miles.

Oil and gas leases and lease applications cover the entire unit.

There are 11 patented lode claims within the unit.

The entire unit is used for grazing.

The unit is characterized by steep, irregular topography. The predominant vegetation is sagebrush with smaller areas of juniper and grassland.

The area contains numerous human improvements that are substantially noticeable and have a significant impact on the apparent naturalness of the area. In addition, the use of the area as a National Guard training area has a major impact on the area and its apparent naturalness.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Limestone Hills West
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-117
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 9,335 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is also a road right-of-way that runs for about 8 miles north to south down the center of the area.

The entire unit is covered by numerous oil and gas leases.

There are 2 patented lode claims and 1 patented placer claim within the unit boundary. There are also at least 45 registered, unpatented claims that cover essentially the entire unit.

There are about 5 miles of fence and 2 spring developments associated with the grazing use of the unit.

There are 3 major vehicle ways within the unit.

The Montana National Guard has a temporary use permit to use the unit as a training area.

The unit is characterized by steep, irregular topography ranging in elevation from 4,000 to 5,856 feet. Approximately 50% of the area is juniper, 20% sagebrush, 10% grassland and about 10% is classed as waste.

BLM inventory unit MT-075-116 is adjacent to this unit on the east.

The area does not appear natural in character. The imprints of man's work are substantially noticeable.

The use of the unit by the National Guard has had a significant impact on the area, particularly the 4 sections that are used as target areas.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Devil's Kitchen
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-121
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 10,921 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Grazing allotments cover a majority of the unit.

Most of the public land parcels in the unit are covered by oil and gas leases or lease applications.

The unit is used for grazing.

Major recreational uses of the area include hunting, fishing, sightseeing, hiking and camping.

The unit is characterized by steep irregular topography, with "The Saw Teeth" being a dominant feature.

The north half of the unit was burned over about forty years ago and is slowly revegetating. The southern portion of the unit is primarily coniferous forest.

The area appears to be essentially natural in character.

UNIT DECISION

This unit consists primarily of public lands in a checker board pattern. It does not meet the size criteria of 5,000 or more contiguous acres. It will therefore be dropped from the inventory process.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island and Name (if available): Tenderfoot/Deep Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-122
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 2,819 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit consists of 10 scattered tracts which are all bounded on 1 side by Forest Service administered land and by private land on the other 3. All but 1 parcel are entirely public land with no private inholdings, the other parcel surrounds a private tract on 3 sides with Forest Service land on the 4th, creating a virtual inholding.

The 10 parcels range in size from 22 acres to 654 acres and total size of the unit comes to 2,819 acres.

The unit is characterized by moderately steep topography with half the unit covered with coniferous forest and the other half by grassland.

The unit is contiguous to the Forest Service RARE II area 1-726, Tenderfoot/Deep Creek which was dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Pilgrim Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-127
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 165 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit consists primarily of steep, open, grassland slopes.

This is contiguous to the Forest Service RARE II area, 1-777 Pilgrim Creek which was dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Highwood Baldy
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-128
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 122 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit consists of 2 parcels, both of which are bounded on 1 side by Forest Service administered land and by private land on the other 3 sides. Both parcels consist entirely of public land with no private inholdings.

The topography of the unit ranges from rolling to rough; vegetation cover is mainly aspen and grassland.

This unit is contiguous to the Forest Service RARE II area 1-737 Highwood Baldy which was dropped from wilderness consideration.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): North Fork of Smith River
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-129
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 560 acres, public lands

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit is characterized by moderately steep topography that ranges in elevation from 5,930 and 6,490 feet. The dominant type of vegetation is coniferous forest with some scattered meadows.

This unit is contiguous to the Forest Service RARE II area 1-744 North Fork of Smith which was dropped from wilderness consideration.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Spring Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-130
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 280 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit consists of 2 parcels, both of which are bounded on the north by Forest Service administered land and on the south, east, and west by private land. Both parcels are entirely public land with no private inholdings.

The western parcel is characterized by rolling topography that ranges in elevation from 5,300 feet to 5,800 feet. Approximately half the parcel is covered by coniferous forest and half by grassland. The eastern parcel has steeper topography that ranges in elevation from 5,700-6,100 feet and it is entirely covered by coniferous forest.

The unit is contiguous to the Forest Service RARE II area 1-741 Spring Creek which was dropped from wilderness consideration.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness inventory.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Bluff Mountain
Inventory Unit No.: MT075-131
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 48 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

This unit consists of 2 parcels, both of which are bounded on the north by Forest Service administered land and on the south, east, and west by private land. Both parcels are entirely public land with no private inholdings.

The entire unit is used for grazing.

The western parcel is characterized by steep slopes, ranging in elevation from 5,700-6,100 feet. The vegetative cover is interspersed meadow and aspen.

The eastern parcel is characterized by moderately steep, open grass slopes that range in elevation from 5,700-5,900 feet.

This unit is contiguous to the Forest Service RARE II area 1-740, Bluff Mountain. This area was allocated to nonwilderness.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): North Absaroka/Suce Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-132
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 360 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Approximately 80 acres of the unit is used for grazing.

This unit is characterized by moderately steep slopes, ranging in elevation from 5,600 to 6,400 feet, and covered by Douglas Fir Forest.

This unit is contiguous to the Forest Service RARE II area 1-371 North Absaroka. This area was allocated to nonwilderness.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): North Absaroka/Dome Mountain
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-135
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 240 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The western tract is part of a temporary power site withdrawal under a Secretarial Order of 6/22/09.

The western parcel is characterized by moderately steep, grass and shrub covered slopes, ranging in elevation from 5,200 to 6,800 feet. The eastern parcel is characterized by rolling, grass covered slopes with scattered timber, ranging in elevation from 6,500-7,200 feet.

This unit is contiguous to the Forest Service RARE II area 1-371 North Absaroka. This area was allocated to nonwilderness.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness inventory.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): North Absaroka/Chico/Six Mile
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-136
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 2,198 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

This unit consists of 6 separate parcels of public land, none of which have any private inholdings. Three of the units are bounded on 3 sides by private land and by Forest Service administered land on the 4th. The other 3 parcels are bounded on 2 sides by Forest Service administered land and the other 2 sides by private land.

The acreages of the 6 parcels are: 448 acres, 183 acres, 940 acres, 501 acres, 80 acres and 46 acres, for a total area of 2,198 acres.

Two parcels are part of stock driveway withdrawals under a secretarial order dated March 18, 1918.

All the parcels in the unit are characterized by moderately steep to steep, open slopes, with some scattered patches of timber. Elevations range from 5,300 to 7,500 feet.

This unit is contiguous to the Forest Service RARE II area 1-371 North Absaroka. This area was allocated to nonwilderness.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Chico Peak
Inventory Unit No.: MT-075-137
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 40 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The entire unit is used for grazing.

This unit is characterized by steep slopes, ranging in elevation from 5,300 to 6,500 feet, and covered by coniferous forest.

This unit is contiguous to the Forest Service RARE II area 1-547 Chico Peak. This area was allocated to nonwilderness.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): North Absaroka/Mill Creek
Inventory Unit No.: 139
State: Montana
District: 075
Size: 449 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

This unit is bounded on the south and east by Forest Service administered land and on the north and west by private land.

Grazing allotment #5496 Malcolm covers the entire unit.

The topography of the area is generally steep and ranges in elevation from 5,500 - 7,900 feet. The vegetation consists of interspersed patches of coniferous forest and open meadows.

This unit is contiguous to the Forest Service RARE II area 1-371, North Absaroka. This area was allocated to non-wilderness by the Forest Service.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Nevada Mountain Tackon
Inventory Unit No.: MT-074-152
State: Montana
District: Butte

UNIT ANALYSIS

The unit is a small public land parcel bordered to the north and east by U.S. Forest Service and to the south and west by private land. It contains 102 acres of public land.

A rock quarry is located along the Ophir Creek Road (southern unit boundary). It is about one acre in size.

The unit is a steep south to southeast exposure. The lower slopes have a Douglas fir overstory while the upper slope is a dense stand of lodgepole pine. Near the center of the unit is a 20 to 25 acre open area. Elevations are 5,600 to 6,600 feet.

It is contiguous to the U.S. Forest Service RARE II Nevada Mountain Area No. 1-606 along the north boundary. This RARE II area was recommended as nonwilderness by the Forest Service. Contiguous lands to the east and west have been heavily logged and roaded.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Silver King Tackons
Inventory Unit No.: MT-074-153
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 2,060 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The inventory unit consists of three public land parcels which are bounded on at least one side by U.S. Forest Service.

Tract 1: Lodgepole pine occurs on the east facing slopes and Douglas fir occurs on the south facing slopes. The harvested areas were replanted with lodgepole pine. The tract is divided by a main ridge running northwest to southeast. The southern end is gently to moderately sloping while the northern end has steep slopes. The elevation ranges from 6,200 feet at the south end of the ridge to 7,400 feet at the north end.

Tract 2: Predominately a lodgepole pine overstory. Some Douglas fir occurs near the southeast corner. There are open parks near the center at the extreme southeast corner of the tract. The entire tract gently slopes to the west and elevations range from 5,400 to 6,000 feet.

Tract 3: Heavily forested area with a few scattered parks. The north facing slope above Copper Creek is lodgepole pine and the remainder of the area is Douglas fir. Two drainages cross the tract from east to west and the topography is steep out of these bottoms (60 percent slopes). Elevations are 5,500 to 6,300 feet.

The tracts contained in the Silver King Inventory Unit are contiguous to the Forest Service RARE II Silver King Area No. 1-424. This RARE II Area was recommended as nonwilderness by the Forest Service.

The tracts by themselves are not of sufficient size to qualify as study areas. Furthermore, portions of Tract 1 have been extensively altered (managed for timber resources). The area could return to a near natural state; however, this would take years. Also, the road into the patented land inside Tract 3 detracts from wilderness characteristics. However, when considered as an addition to the larger Forest Service area, portions of the tracts may have potential for further consideration.

UNIT DECISION

The tracts will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Quigg East Tackon
Inventory Unit No.: MT-074-154
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 4,590 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The inventory unit is split into two tracts.

Tract 1 is approximately 2,270 acres aligned in a long narrow tier running north and south. The tier averages 3/4 mile wide and 5 miles long.

Tract 2 is approximately 2,320 acres and roughly 3 miles (east to west) by 2 miles (north to south).

The U.S. Forest Service has a 50' easement for the Miners Gulch Road W7987. This road forms the south boundary of Tract 1.

Remains of cabins are located in Scotchman Gulch (Section 12 of Tract 2) and in nearby areas and are believed to be associated with past mining activities and homesteading. The owners are unknown.

Tract 1 is generally covered with a dense stand of lodgepole pine. The topography is gentle to moderately sloping to the east with elevations ranging from 5,400 to 6,000 feet. Tract 2 topography falls away in all directions from Ram Mountain (elevation 6,845 feet). The slopes are moderate except along the western edge of the tract where slopes near 80 percent are encountered. Douglas fir is the main overstory with scattered stands of lodgepole pine. There is a 500+ year old stand of Douglas fir in the SW 1/4 of Section 11. Also, there are numerous grassland parks along the southern and western edge of the tract.

The unit is contiguous to the U.S. Forest Service RARE II Quigg East Area No. A1-807. This RARE II area was recommended as nonwilderness by the U.S. Forest Service.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Stony Mountain Tackon
Inventory Unit No.: MT-074-156
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 160 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

The unit is a small parcel of public land bordered to the west and south by U.S. Forest Service and to the east and north by private land.

The unit is included in grazing lease #7313 which covers 1,260 acres. There are 173 Animal Unit Months authorized, however the subject parcel of public land is not grazed.

Mining claims are evident along the bottom of Shively Gulch, however no filings have been received under the provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

There is an old cabin associated with a mining claim in Shively Gulch.

The bottom of Shively Gulch has been mined and there is a rock dam across the gulch which is approximately 60 feet wide and 15 feet high. The period of mining activity is unknown but is not recent.

The area is heavily forested with a Douglas fir overstory. Cottonwood trees appear along Rock Creek. Most of the parcel is very steep and generally slopes to the east toward Rock Creek. Elevations range from 4,800 to 5,600 feet in a very short distance.

The unit is contiguous to the U.S. Forest Service RARE II Stony Mountain Area No. 1-808 along the west and south boundary. This RARE II Area was recommended as nonwilderness by the Forest Service.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Lower Stillwater, Island and Horseshoe Lake Island
Inventory Unit No.: MT-074-157, 158 and 159
State: Montana
District: Butte

UNIT ANALYSIS

The islands are under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management and are surrounded by state and private lands.

There are seven islands (Stillwater Lake, T. 32 N., R. 23 W., MPM, Sec. 20 - 4 islands; Island Lake, T. 29 N., R. 26 W., MPM, Sec. 30 - 1 island; and Horseshoe Lake, T. 27 N., R. 28 W., MPM, Sec. 23 - 2 islands) all less than 1/3 acre in size.

There is a 15' x 15' cabin on the largest island in Stillwater Lake. It is unoccupied.

The islands have a conifer overstory and moderate topographic relief.

The islands are within intensively used areas. All are within sound of major roads. Also, the Lower Stillwater and Horseshoe Lake Islands are within sight of numerous lakeside developments. Motorboating is allowed on all lakes. The islands are small. In light of the above, there is no opportunity for solitude or unconfined types of recreating, and naturalness is impaired by man's activities.

UNIT DECISION

The islands will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Name: Scattered Tracts
Inventory Nos.: MT-076-090, 091, 092, 093, 094, 095, 096, 097, 170,
171, 173, 174, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186,
187, 188, 189
State: Montana
District: Butte
Size: 1,457,163 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND DECISION

The area considered in the situation evaluation referenced above pertains to scattered tracts of public land, less than 5,000 acres per tract. No public comments were received to support further wilderness consideration. These tracts, therefore, are dropped from wilderness consideration.

Lewistown District

Units To Be Intensively Inventoried

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: Dry Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-067-200
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Billings

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit consists of 5,860 acres of public land.

Two easements exist within the unit - one is a 60 foot road R/W and the other is a pipeline.

Nine oil and gas leases cover the entire area.

Permanent improvements consist of a spring and tank and five miles of fence.

The major use of this area is for livestock grazing. The area is leased by oil and gas companies, but no surface disturbance is evident within the unit.

General Vegetation and Topographic Features

Major topographic features are rolling hills. The major vegetation type in this unit is a grass/sagebrush type with some scattered timber stands which are sparsely stocked.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be intensively inventoried.

Unit Identification

Size - 6,010 acres
District - Lewistown
State - Montana

Inventory No. - Mt-067-201
Area Name - Deer Mountain
Resource Area - Billings

Unit Analysis and Evaluation

Approximately 65 percent of this unit is covered with timber. The remaining area consists of grasslands interspersed with sagebrush. The unit consists of a rolling hills topography with elevations ranging from 3,600 to 5,000 feet.

The area appears to meet the criteria for further wilderness consideration. The only evidence of man-caused impacts appears to be hunter activity. The area has been used for grazing.

Unit Decision

This unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Bear Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-067-204
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Billings

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit consists of about 9299 acres of public land of which approximately 550 acres are in Wyoming.

Mining locations of which bentonite is the most important, cover the entire area. Patent applications for selected claims have been filed.

Permanent improvements consist of 4 reservoirs, 3 water wells, a bird water development and a pipeline.

The major uses are livestock grazing and mining with light use by deer and bird hunters. The mining activity includes both bentonite strip mining and various mineral locations.

Land treatment/manipulations consist of approximately 75 acres of seeding.

The vegetative type is grass/sagebrush with some small areas of juniper patch scattered throughout the unit.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Burnt Timber Canyon
Inventory Unit No.: MT-067-205
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Billings

UNIT ANALYSIS

The unit consists of about 8,758 acres of public land.

One oil and gas lease exists within this unit.

Mining location of which uranium is the most important, covers most of the area.

Permanent improvements consist of an enclosure, two miles of fences, a catchment, a spring and a wild horse trap.

The major use is grazing, about 50% of livestock and about 50% by wild horses. Also some general recreation, fishing, big game hunting and rock hunting occurs. Location claims are present but no mining activity is occurring. Past mining activity is evident throughout the unit except in the Crooked Creek Canyon.

The vegetation consists of three major types. In the bottom of Crooked Creek Canyon, the vegetation consists of grasses, shrub and hardwoods. In the lower elevation, the area other than Crooked Creek Canyon consists of grasses and shrub, mainly juniper. In the upper elevation, Upper Burnt Timber Ridge, the vegetation is mainly grasses but patches of Douglas Fir stands start to appear. The topographic features from a sharp pointed ridge on the east, to a narrow deep canyon in the middle to a relatively flat area to the west side.

The US Forest Service Lost Water RARE II Area is adjacent to this unit and contains 10,000 acres.

UNIT DECISION

The Burnt Timber Canyon appears to have potential for further wilderness consideration and will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Pryor Mountain
Inventory Unit No.: MT-067-206
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Billings

UNIT ANALYSIS

The unit consists of about 18,067 acres; 13,715 acres in Montana and 4,352 in Wyoming.

This unit has two power line easements which are located close together, in Wyoming.

Mining location of which uranium is the most important covers most of the area.

Permanent improvements consist of two enclosures, three fourths of a mile of fence, a horse trap, a water catchment and a reservoir.

The major use is wild horse grazing with some general recreation use such as caving, big game and bird hunting and rock hunting. Location claims are present within the unit but no known mining activity is occurring.

Human activity within the unit is generally light and usually concentrated on or close to existing roads. During the hunting season, activity does increase which is concentrated in the northern part of the unit.

The vegetative type consist of two major types. In the lower elevation, the vegetation consist of grasses and shrub, mainly juniper and mountain mahogany. In the upper elevation, the vegetation is mainly Douglas fir with some limber pine. The topographic features varies from flat benches, mesas, and buttes to sharp dipping rimrocks, deep canyons and to a high uplift of East Pryor Mountain. The area drains generally to the south, with sharp pointed ridges on each side with a deep canyon, Big Coulee, down the middle.

UNIT DECISION

The Pryor Mountain unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Big horn Tack-on: Sykes Ridge
Unit Inventory No.: MT-067-207
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Billings
Size: 6,040 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The vegetation of the area consists primarily of Douglas fir and Limber pine covered slopes. The topography of the unit consists of steep side hills and draws.

The area appears to meet the criteria to warrant further wilderness consideration. There appears to be very little evidence of human activity in this unit.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: Yellowstone Islands
Inventory Unit No.: MT-067-210
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Billings

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Current status plats indicate that there are seven public land islands administered by BLM in the Yellowstone River. An intensive field inventory will be required to verify the existence of these and any additional islands not shown on current status plats.

The islands range in size from .22 acres to 77.16 acres and have a combined total acreage of 193.25 acres.

The islands contain predominately a hardwood/brush vegetative complex on generally flat topography.

UNIT DECISION

The Yellowstone River islands will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Islands Name: Snowy Mountain Tackon
Inventory Unit No.: MT-067-211
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Billings

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

This unit consists of 160 acres of public land.

One oil and gas lease covers the entire unit.

Mining claims cover the entire area.

Existing use consists of some hunting activity in the fall.

The general vegetation consists of thick stands of ponderosa pine.

This area is contiguous with approximately 100,000 acres in a roadless area of National Forest lands recommended for further study.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: Twin Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-067-212
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Billings

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit consists of 6,868.5 acres of public land.

There is some limited grazing and hunting activities occurring in the area.

Most of this area is covered by a thick stand of 4" to 8" lodgepole pine with some Douglas fir mixed in. The topographic feature is the Snowy Mountains which have narrow ridges, steep slopes and narrow valleys.

This area is contiguous with approximately 100,000 roadless acres of National Forest Land recommended for further study under the Rare II process.

UNIT DECISION

The Twin Coulee unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Middle Fork Judith Tack-on
Inventory Unit No.: MT-068-216
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The entire area is public land totalling 145.13 acres.

There is a road easement in the southwest corner.

The area is withdrawn as part of the State of Montana's Department of Fish and Game Judith River Game Range (PLO 962) to serve as winter range for the Middle Fork of the Judith herd of 8,000 elk. Two vehicle trails pass through the area and lands just to the north are heavily used for Yogo sapphire mining. There may be some prospecting activity on the area itself.

Human use is moderate, given the vehicle trails through the area.

This is a vertical, hilly area heavily forested with lodgepole pine.

The unit is contiguous to the Middle Fork of the Judith designated wilderness study area (Montana Wilderness Bill 1978) USFS.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Big Snowies Tack-on
Inventory Unit No.: MT-068-217
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith

UNIT ANALYSIS

The unit consists of 1760 acres of public land divided into 9 separate scattered areas.

The area is covered by oil and gas leases.

There are 1½ miles of fence within the areas.

Over 128 thousand board feet of timber has been cut from the most western area fairly recently. The area on the east side of Crystal Lake Road was partially cut of 97 thousand board feet in 1961 and the next area east had ± 50 thousand board feet up to 1975.

Human activity is generally light until fall when the trail through the center of the unit sees hunter vehicular travel.

The terrain is mountainous with steep drainages and forested hillsides. Timber species include Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, aspen, and lodgepole pine.

The unit is contiguous to the Big Snowies designated wilderness study area (Montana Wilderness Bill 1978). US Forest Service also recommended for further study in the RARE II effort.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: West Cottonwood Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-068-221
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith

UNIT ANALYSIS

The unit consists of 6,000 acres of public land.

There is an underground telephone line along the western border of the area.

The area is covered by 13 oil and gas leases.

There are 21 miles of fence, 14 stock reservoirs, and a well with associated pipeline going from T. 16 N., R. 29 E., Sec. 26 to Sec. 25 into a stock tank. Several vehicle trails traverse the area.

The area is used for livestock grazing and autumn hunting.

There is a fire rehabilitation project finished in 1962 in the northern part of the unit. This covers about 750 acres.

The western part of this unit is the edge of the Musselshell Breaks, made up of rough ridge and sandstone outcrops with deeply incised coulees. This is basically rolling grassland country with scattered Ponderosa pine and juniper on more vertical, wetter sites.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Cottonwood Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-068-222
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit consists of 7000 acres of federal land.
There is an underground telephone line on the edge of the unit.

The area contains 7 oil and gas leases.

There are 7 stock reservoirs, 10 miles of fence, and one water well with connecting pipeline.

Grazing is probably the most significant use in the unit. Hunting use is probably predominant during the fall.

A "breaks" area draining into the Musselshell River, this area is typical of the heavily eroded topography on both sides of the river. The area is typified by vegetated bottoms and eroded, steep coulees that form interesting landscapes. Outcrops of Hell Creek sandstone formations are found at higher elevations overlooking the moderately wide Cottonwood Creek Valley. Stands of Ponderosa pine and pickets of juniper on north facing slopes and in the bottoms contrast in color and texture against the pre-dominant brown-grey-green of the range grasses and shrubs.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Blood Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-068-223
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit consists of approximately 11,000 acres.

There is a pipeline easement in T. 17 N., R. 12 E., Sec. 12.

The area is covered by 40 oil and gas leases.

There are 17 stock reservoirs, 11 miles of fence, a water well and an associated pipeline.

The activities associated with grazing management are probably the major use of the area. The secondary use would be hunting. No oil and gas activity is reported.

There is also a fire vegetation rehabilitation in the unit.

Topography of this area has developed from plains into sloping benches and young, sharply defined drainages. The shallow Bearpaw shale bedrock of shale and sandstone is occasionally exposed as outcrops near Blood Creek. Most of the area is Big-sagebrush-western wheatgrass or June grass-western wheatgrass. Only a thin fringe of Ponderosa pine lines the creek areas. Elevations in the area vary from 2400 to 3200'

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Dovetail Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-068-224
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit consists of 22,400 acres.

There is a 33' ROW easement for a vehicle trail in T. 18 N., R. 28 E., Sec. 34.

There are 16 oil and gas leases covering the entire area.

There are 8 stock reservoirs, 8 miles of fence, and 1 developed spring within the area.

Human activity is generally light and seasonal in nature with more use during fall than any other season.

There is also a fire rehabilitation vegetative planting in the unit.

Land forms are typical of the "breaks" pattern found in the area but are the highest quality for the type. Hell Creek formation is found along the ridges, while Bearpaw shales are found at the lower elevations. Ridge top sandstones are sculptured into dramatic and unusual forms. Differences in color and texture result primarily from the patterns formed by Ponderosa pine against the backdrop of gray-green range grasses and sagebrush.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Arrow Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-068-225
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit consists of 9,600 acres federal land.

The area contains 11 oil and gas leases.

Except for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of fence and a few scattered vehicle trails, the area has no known permanent improvements.

There appear to be 5 dry oil and gas holes sited within the area. The predominant uses are livestock grazing and hunting.

Human activity is involved largely with hunting and to a lesser degree with livestock management. Both uses are light. A lightly used spur railroad line lies across Arrow Creek.

This area is situated in the Arrow Creek breaks. Topography is steep and rough with barren shale and sandstone outcrops. Vegetation is mainly big sage and bluebunch wheatgrass with a blue grama understory. Almost no trees are present.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Armells Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-068-227
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit consists of 19,000 acres.

There are two easements on the land for an underground telephone line and a powerline in T. 20 N., R. 22 E., Sec. 7.

The area is covered by 26 oil and gas leases.

There are 9 reservoirs, approximately 12 miles of fence and 1 cattleguard in the area.

The major use is livestock grazing. Autumn hunting is also an important use. There is a single dry gas hole drilled in the northeastern part of the unit.

Several vegetative rehabilitation projects from the early 1960's are found in the area.

The topography is rolling and thickly wooded until the flattened bottom of the creek drainage is reached. In autumn, the cottonwoods in the drainage offer eye catching color, outlining both sides of the creek flood plain. The valley sites are eroded Bearpaw shale and offer only rolling surface variation. Ponderosa pine, Rocky Mountain juniper, common juniper and Douglas fir do well on this kind of surface and supply the color and textural variation of this scene.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Fargo Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-068-228
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

+ 5,000 acres of public land.

There are 9 oil and gas leases on the area.

There are 3½ miles of fence within the area. Also present are 3 reservoirs and an underground pipeline from an artesian well to a stock tank, both inside the area, and some vehicle trails.

Hunting and livestock grazing can be considered to be the major uses. The area is totally leased by oil and gas companies and one dry hole was drilled in the southwest edge of the area.

Human activity is light and connected with livestock grazing and hunting.

There are two fire rehabilitation projects in the unit.

Fargo Coulee contains the rougher land on either side of Fargo Coulee as it heads north to join Armells Creek. Topography is mostly rough breaks with narrow ridges and steep coulees. Soils are clay and clay-shales developed on Bear Paw Shales and associated shales of the cretaceous age and Kootenai prairie grasses on the ridges between the large drainages, silver sagebrush and big sage mixed with salt tolerant grasses in the coulee bottoms and Ponderosa pine with grass understory along the steep coulees.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Carter Coulee
Unit Inventory No.: MT-068-229
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith
Size: 5,760 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The area is partially covered by 7 oil and gas leases.
There are 6 stock reservoirs.

Uses include livestock grazing and fall hunting.

Human activity is associated with grazing and hunting. The Wilder Trail which forms the east boundary of the area is a major artery into the CM Russel National Wildlife Refuge.

This unit is typical "breaks country", not as rugged as would be found nearer the Missouri River, but fairly broken up with steep coulee sides near Sand Creek. Prairie vegetation of diverse types, including big bunch wheatgrass and sagebrush, are found on ridges and flatter areas while Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir and juniper are found on north slopes inside the drainage channels.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Two Calf Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-068-231
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith
Size: 12,000 acres, approximately

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are 18 reservoirs and 3 wells along with 6 miles of fence within the area. A single dry gas hole exists near the northern border of the area.

The major use of this area is grazing with some use by autumn hunters. The area is totally leased by oil and gas companies.

Two Calf is comprised of flat hills merging to more varied "breaks" terrain as one heads north. Vegetation is prairie grass on the flatter portions but thick forests line the valleys of both Two Calf and South Fork Two Calf Creeks. Douglas fir, Rocky Mountain juniper, and Ponderosa pine are all found in the drainages. The underlying Bearpaw and Claggett formation shales have eroded into a rounded form which on the western side of the unit is flattened range, very suitable for grazing.

Vegetative screening of the few signs of man is sufficient to maintain a feeling of naturalness and ecological naturalness exists in the unit.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Reed Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-068-232
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith
Size: 11,640 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are 12 reservoirs, one well, and 5 miles of fence within the area. The major use is grazing and a secondary use is hunting for deer, elk, and birds during the fall.

There is fairly sporadic vehicular use along Barnes Ridge Road. More vehicle activity is present along the north boundary going to Lower Two Calf Crossing and Sheep Pasture.

Reed Coulee is broken and rough topographically, draining from the west to the Missouri River on the east. The area is bisected by Reed Coulee which is an intermittent drainage. Elevation slopes from 3,128 feet on the west down to 2,275 feet on the east. The Bearpaw shale substrate permits good growth of western wheatgrass and sagebrush on about a third of the more level ground, but the majority of the area is Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir with a sparse grass understory.

The area appears to be in largely a natural condition, and the signs of man's presence appear to be well screened by vegetation and topographic variation.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Drag Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-068-233
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith
Size: 14,700 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The area is blanketed by 6 oil and gas leases.

There are 8 stock reservoirs, 7 miles of fence, and one large detention dam on the west edge with two toilets nearby.

The area is heavily forested along the bottom of Drag Creek and side coulees. The western half can be characterized as rolling, while the eastern half is sharply eroded. The white Eagle Sandstone outcrops in this section add striking variety in both color and texture. Prairie grasses on the tops and along the western side contrast with the Ponderosa pine in the coulees and on the north slopes.

Noise from recreational power boats, on Drag retention dam, fumes and the existence of the toilets within the area infringe on natural values but only on the edge of the unit. The rest is essentially natural and should be intensively inventoried.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: West Crooked Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-068-236
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith
Size: 10,240 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are 8 stock reservoirs and 4 miles of fence in the area. Stock reservoirs are mostly clustered in the western half of the unit.

Most of the area is overlain by Hell Creek formation sandstone and shale, with Bearpaw shale along a spur of Crooked Creek in the western part of the area. The resultant erosional pattern is rounded with less of the dramatic steepness typical of areas more to the south. Bottoms and ridges are forested with Ponderosa pine, Juniper and Douglas fir. Mixed prairie grasses make up the bench areas and some riparian vegetation can be found immediately adjacent to the creek.

Because of the essential naturalness of the area it will be considered for wilderness study.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Horse Camp Trail
Inventory Unit No.: MT-068-237
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith
Size: 9,600 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is a wildlife program study area enclosure, stock reservoirs and 5 miles of fence within the area.

Human activity is connected with grazing administration and management and hunting.

Horse Camp Trail presents a rolling, somewhat forested character to the visitor. Brown clay Bearpaw shales overlay the area, and where deep erosion has occurred, Hell Creek formation is encountered. Ponderosa pine forests the bottoms and ridges while sagebrush and a mixture of prairie grass species, especially western wheatgrass, inhabit the highlands.

The area's ecology is basically natural in appearance. Some may be resultant from seasonal use of the eastern road boundary but this is not felt to be a major intrusion.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Chain Buttes
Inventory Unit No.: MT-068-238
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith
Size: 5,000 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The area is entirely leased by oil and gas companies.

There are 4 stock reservoirs and 6 miles of fence bisecting the area vertically.

Activity is connected with livestock management and hunting.

The unit is traversed by Ctooked Creek. Topographically, coulees draining from north to south into the creek make up the vertical relief of the area. Color contrast stems mainly from the vegetative pattern of moderately heavy Ponderosa pine and juniper in the bottoms and draws and fringes of trees outlining the dominant land forms. Although the area is heavily eroded, its rolling, rounded form makes for a less dramatic visual scene than further south.

A very "clean" area as far as human signs are concerned.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Fort Musselshell Tack-on "A"
Inventory Unit No.: MT-068-240
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith
Size: 1,200 acres, public lands

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Human activity consists primarily of fall hunting.

This area is rolling terrain at the head of Dry Coulee which drops into Fort Peck Reservoir. Bottoms and more north facing slopes are timbered with Douglas fire, lodgepole pine, Ponderosa pine, and Juniper while more upland areas are vegetated with sagebrush and grasses.

This area is adjacent to the Fish and Wildlife Fort Musselshell Wilderness study area.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Missouri River Islands
Inventory Unit No.: MT-068-243
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith
Size: Unknown

Larger islands are used for camping and some hunting in the fall.

Islands vary from sand bars with no vegetation to emerging islands with early successional willow growth to older islands 1015 feet above the water level with sagebrush, prairie grasses and cottonwoods.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Dog Creek South
Inventory Unit No.: MT-068-244
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Size: 10,250 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are 6 stock reservoirs, 1½ miles of fence, and 1 water well within the area. A vehicle trail traversing sections 4, 5 and 6 has been opened up several times and should be field examined to see if it meets minimum qualification as a road.

Dog Creek South overlooks the Missouri River for 4 miles and its deep coulees flow into the river. Except for the high, rolling benches, the area is very steep and rugged. Jagged sandstone cliffs and rounded shale slopes, both of a gray buff color, typical of Judith River geologic formations, are present. Vegetation is sparse; there are Ponderosa pine and juniper in some coulees, high grass on the benches and sage and rabbitbrush throughout.

This area is a very untouched and scenically spectacular area. Probably no area in the Missouri Breaks shows as natural a condition as the north side of this unit.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Chimney Bend
Inventory Unit No.: MT-068-245
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith
Size: 17,900 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is application by Fuelco Gas Company for an underground pipeline right-of-way through the center of the unit.

The area is blanketed by 17 oil and gas leases.

There are nineteen reservoirs, two water savers, fourteen miles of fence and 8 miles of primitive trail within the area. Most of the reservoirs are scattered in the bench above the river.

It is known that Fuelco Gas Co. expects to do further exploration work in the area.

The many intermittent drainages in this area all flow north into the Missouri River. The streams, when they flow, cut their way through permeable shales, leaving deep gullies and exposed gumbo formations. The land on the upper benches is mainly rolling breaks which offer topographical screening. As one approaches the river, the sagebrush-grass type turns into pockets of Ponderosa pine with scattered Douglas fir.

In spite of the many signs of man along the southern edge of the area, the area retains its natural aspect. Its size and topographic and vegetative diversity offer good screening for intrusions.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Woodhawk
Inventory No.: MT-068-246
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith
Size: 17,000 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are 42 oil and gas leases covering the area.

There are 13 reservoirs, three water savers, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of fence, and one cattleguard within the unit.

Fire vegetative rehabilitations have been undertaken in the center of the area and along the southwest edge stemming from fires in 1962 and 1967.

Woodhawk Creek, the major drainage in the area, is framed by multicolored rock in the steep coulee walls. To the north and east, the land drops off abruptly towards the Missouri River. In the southwest, high grassy benches covered with Ponderosa pine, Juniper and Douglas fir become increasingly eroded and heavily dissected as creeks and tributaries approach the Missouri. Folded sandstone cliffs, outcrops, and ridges contribute to the rich variety of scenery.

Across the Missouri River from Woodhawk tentative inventory area are sections of Ervin Ridge, Bullwhacker, and Cow Creek tentative inventory areas, all of which have been recommended for intensive study.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Woodhawk Creek
Inventory No.: MT-068-247
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith
Size: 5,500 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The area contains 19 oil and gas leases.

There are 9 stock reservoirs, 4 miles of fence, a developed spring, and an enclosure study plot within the unit.

Fall hunting and livestock grazing operations are probably the most important uses. Oil and gas activity is accelerating in the region, but at this time there are no drilled holes within the unit.

There is a 240 acre fire rehabilitation project dating from 1967 in the far eastern part of the area. Some past farming in the southern end has left crested wheat plantings which are obviously not natural to the area.

The area is bisected by Woodhawk Creek passing from the west to the east sides. Although not quite as rough as the drainages closer to the Missouri, this section is still steep-sided with sandstone cliffs and outcrops. Further to the south of the Woodhawk Creek drainage, high grassy benches covered with a mixture of prairie grasses with fingers of conifer forest on north slopes and along drainages give way to denser forest as one heads north.

This area is untouched, rather inaccessible and essentially natural along Woodhawk Creek. The area further to the south is planted with crested wheat, a nonindigenous species, such that natural conditions are impacted; however, information provided by the public during the review period indicates the area has sufficient characteristics to warrant further inventory.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: The Wall
Inventory Unit No.: MT-066-249
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Area Office: Havre
Size: 8,089 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The entire area is covered by oil/gas leases and grazing allotments.

There are 2 miles of fence, a narrow vehicle trail, a small developed spring and a 4,976 acre coal withdrawal reserve within the unit.

Activities in the area consist of livestock grazing and recreation associated with the River. This portion of the River possesses unique geologic and historic sites along with some excellent hunting and warm water fishing. It is also highly desirable for floating. It lies along a section of the Missouri Wild and Scenic River.

This unit is a section of the Missouri Breaks with a topography of flat ridge tops that steeply descend (often at grades of 90 percent or more) to small streams. This rugged and highly dissected terrain possesses clayey soils that supports populations of prairie grasses and of Ponderosa pine interspersed with Douglas fir and Juniper. It is likely that only 40 percent of the area is timbered. The remaining sections are either too steep to support vegetation or they lie along creek bottoms dominated with rabbitbrush and/or sagebrush.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Stafford
Inventory Unit No.: MT-066-250
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Area Office: Havre
Size: 7,177 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The entire unit is covered by 16 oil/gas leases.

The unit possesses two small stockwater reservoirs, one mile of fence, and some primitive vehicle ways which are seldom used. All are within the northern half of the unit.

Activities in the area include livestock grazing, oil/gas exploration and recreation.

The area possesses unique geologic and historic sites along with some excellent hunting and warm water fishing.

This unit is an extension of the Missouri Breaks with a topography of flat ridge tops that steeply descend (often at grades of 90 percent or more) to small streams. This rugged and highly dissected terrain supports populations of prairie grasses and of Ponderosa pine interspersed with Douglas fir and Juniper. It is likely that only 40 percent of the area is timbered. The remaining sections are either too steep to support vegetation or they lie along creek bottoms dominated with rabbitbrush and/or sagebrush.

The unit is bordered by 5 primitive roadless areas of over 5,000 acres. This has helped to limit development thereby retaining the site's natural form. The only developments intruding the unit have been from previous oil/gas explorations or through the construction of small reservoirs. The steep and rugged terrain helps make intrusions virtually unnoticeable.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Cummings Bench
Inventory Unit No.: MT-066-251
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Area Office: Havre
Size: 6,280 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The entire unit is covered by 13 separate oil/gas leases. One small 80 acre tract in the western corner has been leased for grazing.

The area possesses 3-4 miles of vehicle ways crossing the unit in the northern and southern portions, 6-7 dispersed reservoirs, three miles of 3 and 4 strand barbed wire fence centralized in the northeast section, 3 dry gas exploration wells exposing only 4 foot marker pipes, and possible active gas drilling sites although their locations are not known at this time.

The area is an extension of the Missouri Breaks with a rugged and highly dissected terrain that lies entirely within the Birch Creek drainage. It's clayey soils are moderately covered by prairie grasses, sagebrush, and greasewood with occasional patches of coniferous forest. Where areas are steep and highly erodible, it gives a barren badland appearance.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Black Elk Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-066-252
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Area Office: Havre
Size: 9,702 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The entire unit is covered by 17 separate oil/gas leases.

The unit possesses at scattered locations, 4 reservoirs, 5-6 miles of fence, one loading corral, 7 dry gas holes, and numerous primitive vehicle trails. It may possibly have a few active gas sites.

The unit is an extension of the Missouri Breaks with a rugged and highly dissected terrain that lies entirely in the Black Coulee drainage. Its clayey soils are moderately covered by prairie grasses, sagebrush, and greasewood with occasional patches of coniferous forest. Where areas are steep and highly erodable, it gives a badland appearance.

Although some development has occurred within the unit over the years, the area appears to have retained much of its primitive characteristics.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Ervin Ridge
Inventory Unit No.: MT-066-253
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Area Office: Havre
Size: 22,527 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are three scattered gas pipeline easements totalling 3 1/4 miles in length.

There has been developed, through past range management, 2 miles of fence, primitive trails, and 11 stockwater reservoirs; five dry gas wells with marker pipes and three active gas wells connected by gas lines have been the result of past gas exploration. All these improvements lie in the north half of the unit.

This unit is a part of the Missouri Breaks possessing a topography of flat ridge tops that steeply descend (often at grades of 90 percent or more) to small streams. This rugged and highly dissected terrain supports populations of prairie grasses and of Ponderosa pine interspersed with Douglas fir and Juniper. It is likely that only 60 percent of the area is timbered. The remaining sections are either too steep to support vegetation or they lie along creek bottoms dominated with rabbitbrush and/or sagebrush.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Sand Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-066-254
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Area Office: Havre
Size: 12,217 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

An easement has allowed a buried gas line to cross 1/2 mile of the unit northeast corner.

The entire unit is covered by 13 separate oil/gas leases.

Permanent improvements of the unit include:

- lightly used vehicle ways with one possessing a cattleguard
- 15 scattered reservoirs
- five to six miles of 3 and 4 strand fence
- one-half mile of buried pipeline on the northeast fringe
- 8 dry gas wells with a four foot high marker pipe.

The unit is an extension of the Missouri Breaks with a rugged and highly dissected terrain that lies entirely within the Sand Creek drainage. It's clayey soils are moderately covered by prairie grasses, sagebrush, and greasewood with occasional patches of coniferous forest. Where areas are steep and highly erodible, it gives a barren badland appearance.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Bullwhacker
Inventory Unit No.: MT-066-255
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Area Office: Havre
Size: 40,851 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are numerous pipeline easements totalling approximately eight miles in length.

The entire unit is covered by 50 oil/gas leases.

The unit has thirty-five to forty stockwater reservoirs, approximately twenty miles of fence, numerous buried pipelines, five or more active gas wells, one moderately used 2 mile road from the west, numerous primitive vehicle trails, one developed spring, 40 or more dry gas holes, and numerous active gas wells. Most improvements are in the northern and eastern halves of the unit.

This unit is an extension of the Missouri Breaks with a topography of flat ridge tops that steeply descend (often at grades of 90 percent or more) to small streams. This rugged and highly dissected terrain of clayey soils support populations of prairie grasses and of Ponderosa pine interspersed with Douglas fir and juniper. It is likely that only 60 percent of the area is timbered. The remaining sections are either too steep to support vegetation or they lie along creek bottoms dominated with rabbitbrush and/or sagebrush.

There are other proposed roadless areas which border this unit: "Cow Creek" to the northeast and "Ervin Ridge" to the south.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Cow Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-066-256
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Area Office: Havre
Size: 71,113 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Improvements consist of 55 reservoirs, scattered lengths of fence totalling 33 miles, numerous vehicle ways, one rain-entrapment, approximately 45 dry gas holes with marker pipes, and two cattleguards. There is active drilling for gas, but their locations are currently unknown.

This unit is an extension of the Missouri Breaks with a topography of flat ridge tops that steeply descend (often at grades of 90 percent or more) to small streams. This rugged and highly dissected terrain supports populations of prairie grasses and of Ponderosa pine interspersed with Douglas fir and Juniper. It is likely that only 40 percent of the area is timbered. The remaining sections are either too steep to support vegetation or they lie along creek bottoms dominated with rabbitbrush and/or sagebrush.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Timber Ridge
Inventory Unit No.: MT-066-258
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Area Office: Havre
Size: 8,000 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The entire unit is covered by 10 oil/gas leases.

The unit possesses 6 reservoirs, 1 1/4 mile of fence line, one raintrap for a stockwater containment, 4 dry gas holes with marker pipes, 2-3 active gas wells, and 3 short primitive vehicle trails. All are dispersed within the unit.

Uses of the unit include oil/gas exploration and livestock grazing on the 2 licensed cattle allotments.

The unit's broken topography consists of numerous ridge tops which steeply descend (often at 70 percent per grade or more) to tributaries which feed Suction Creek. To the west this topography with its sand and clay soil and sparse vegetation provides a badland appearance. Elsewhere the vegetation is more abundant and covers the terrain with ponderosa pine, fir, sagebrush and prairie grasses.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Wildhorse Lake
Inventory Unit No.: MT-066-261
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Area Office: Havre
Size: 11,453 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Two power transmission lines with a 10' right-of-way totalling 3½ miles in length lie in the middle of the unit. Crossing the northern tip is a buried 12" pipeline with a 50' right-of-way.

The entire unit is covered by 3 grazing allotments and 8 oil/gas leases.

Some improvements in the area include three wells carrying water by a partial underground pipeline to livestock, electric waterwell pumps linked with transmission lines extending a combined total length of 4 miles, 3 and 4 strand fences marking allotment boundaries, a 12 inch diameter buried gas pipeline crossing the unit's northern tip, and dry gas holes marked with 4 ft. high marker pipe.

The site lies primarily on an ancient stream depression that had its natural outlet dammed with glacial drift. The depression now resembles a lake bed with slopes rising from its center an average 2 feet per mile. During a short period of the year (normally in early summer) this lake fills with water to depths of only 1-2 feet. This water, though, is quickly lost to evaporation or seepage. If a prolonged dry period follows, deep cracking of the lake's alkaline-saline clay soil occurs.

The vegetative growth is dependent on this soils moisture. During dry years the lake is virtually barren from plant life. But those periods when soil moisture is abundant, the vegetation is lush consisting from a variety of prairie grasses.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Woody Island Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-066-264
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Area Office: Havre
Size: 23,035 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit possesses 35 separate oil/gas leases.

Land improvements in the area include 28 reservoirs, 2 private or Montana State reservoirs, 2 developed springs, 7 shallow wells, numerous cattle-guards, many lengths of fence, 3 windmills, and one sheep feed shelter. Most, if not all, of these improvements are positioned in the eastern half of the unit.

This area possesses an excellent example of glacial potholes and esker's (glacial ridges). This has created an interesting array of steep ridges and small water-filled ponds.

The soils are shallow to moderately deep being fairly well drained. It consists of glacial till and Bearpaw Shale with occasional Bentonite outcroppings.

The unit possesses a mixture of native and introduced grasses. These include western wheatgrass, blue grama, needle-and-thread, and other assorted range grasses.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Antelope Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-266
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 21,500 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is a powersite withdrawal along the Missouri River.

There are numerous oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

There are ten reservoirs and one water well in the unit. The "Kid Curry Hide-a-Way" State Monument and old homestead is also within the unit, on 160 acres of private land.

Approximately 100 acres have been reseeded because of a fire in Section 21 of T. 23 N., Range 23 E.

The unit is breaks type topography. The major types of vegetation are conifers, sagebrush, greasewood, and a mixture of short and midgrasses. The surface is shale, clay, badlands, or scabland.

The unit is contiguous to the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge's "Antelope Creek" Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

WILDERNESS UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Cyprian Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-268
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 6,900 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

There are nine reservoirs, one water well, approximately six miles of fence, five cattleguards, a private cattle camp, and approximately six miles of underground water pipe to two stock watering tanks, within this unit.

Recreational use is currently limited to hunting and fishing. The area is used for the grazing of livestock.

The unit is rolling prairie and breaks type topography.

The major types of vegetation are sagebrush, a mixture of short and mid-grasses, and conifers. The surface is clay or shale.

This unit is contiguous to the C.M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge.

UNIT RECOMMENDATION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Beauchamp Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-274
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 30,400 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is one maintained road into the unit for fishing access to "Current" reservoir.

There is a right-of-way for an overhead powerline.

There are numerous oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

The unit is rolling prairie and breaks type topography. The major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and mid-grasses, sagebrush, greasewood and conifers.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Indian Lake
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-275
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 20,600 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is one heavily used road within the unit to a gas well.

There are numerous oil and gas leases throughout the unit and one gas well.

There are 25 reservoirs, and approximately 6 miles of fence in the area.

The unit is breaks and rolling prairie type topography.

The major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and mid-grasses, sagebrush, greasewood, and conifers. The surface is scabland, shale, ordinary uplands, thin breaks, clay, shallow sloped soils, and saline lowland.

This unit is contiguous to the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Range.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Box Elder Creek
Inventory Unit No.: Mt-065-277
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 15,500 Acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION:

There is one maintained road which is part of the boundary for this unit.

There is one heavily used vehicular way which may meet the BLM road definition.

There are 15 oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

There are 16 reservoirs and approximately 42 miles of fence throughout the unit.

Human activity in the area consists of hunting in the fall and supervision of livestock facilities from May through December.

There is a 15 acre seedling on a wildfire-burned area location in Section 35 of T. 23 N., R. 32 E.

The unit is breaks-type topography.

The major types of vegetation are sagebrush, a mixture of short and mid-grasses, and one area of conifers and one of greasewood. The surface is ordinary uplands, small areas of shale, clay or badlands waste, scabland, or saline lowland.

This unit is contiguous to the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge's "Burnt Lodge" Wilderness Study Area.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Burnt Lodge/Sage Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-278
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips - Valley
Size: 64,860 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Throughout this unit there are 64 reservoirs, two developed springs, one gravel pit, 56 miles of fence, two cattleguards, two corrals, and two areas with water spreaders.

This unit has diverse topography of breaks, rolling hills, sandstone capped uplands, and badlands.

The major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and midgrasses, sagebrush, conifers, greasewood, annual weeds, salt bush, and waste.

The surface is ordinary uplands, shale or shallow badlands, saline lowland or saline upland, clay and thin breaks.

This unit is contiguous to the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge's "Burnt Lodge" Wilderness Study Area which was recommended for wilderness designation by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Dry Fork Creek
Area Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-280
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 15,360 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

Throughout this unit there are 25 reservoirs, approximately 14 miles of fence and one cattleguard.

The topography of this unit is breaks and glaciated upland.

The major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and midgrasses, greasewood, and sagebrush.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Third Creek
Area Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-282
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 31,860 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

Throughout this unit there are 65 reservoirs, approximately 80 miles of fence, five cattleguards, one corral and one mile of water ditch.

The topography of this unit is rolling prairie and glaciated upland.

The major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and midgrasses, sagebrush and greasewood.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Little Rockies
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-286
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 7,260 acres

There are old trails from past timber cutting in the unit and three mines which have not been patented.

Thinning of trees has been authorized in portions of the unit.

The topography of this unit is mountainous.

The major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and midgrasses, sagebrush, greasewood, conifers, and mountain shrubs.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Flat Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-290
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 29,760 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

Throughout this unit there are 62 reservoirs, approximately 51 miles of fence, 2 fence enclosures around reservoirs and 1 cattleguard. There are 120 acres of contour plowing and fence lines which have been bladed for fire lanes.

The topography of this unit is a broad basin and gently rolling glaciated upland.

The major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and midgrasses, sagebrush, greasewood, annual weeds, salt bush, and waste.

The naturalness of the unit has been impacted but human presence is relatively unnoticeable because of size and vegetation.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Beaver Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-297
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 19,700 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

Throughout this unit there are 14 reservoirs and approximately 27 miles of fence.

The topography of this unit is stream-cut glaciated prairie.

The major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and midgrasses, sagebrush, and greasewood.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Black Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-303
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips - Havre
Size: 8,360 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are oil and gas leases throughout this unit.

Throughout this unit there are nine reservoirs, approximately 12 miles of fence and two cattleguards.

The topography of this unit is breaks.

The major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and midgrasses and sagebrush.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Lamere Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-304
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 37,100 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit and six gas wells have been drilled.

Throughout this unit there are 54 reservoirs, approximately 58 miles of fence, and one water well.

The topography of this unit is breaks.

The major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and midgrasses, sagebrush and greasewood.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Frenchman Creek - West
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-320
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 13,760 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

Throughout this unit there are six reservoirs, two cattleguards, and approximately 28 miles of fence.

The topography of this unit is breaks and glaciated upland prairie.

The major type of vegetation is a mixture of short and midgrasses.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: Square Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-323
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 10,800 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit contains 3 reservoirs, several miles of undescribed livestock fences.

Three grazing permits covering 100 percent of the unit exist.

The length of this unit exhibits flat topped buttes separated by deep drainages which become badlands. There are some stands of Ponderosa pines covering small spots on the north slope, while lush grass covers the southern slopes.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: Wagon Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: Charles M. Russell
State: MT-064-325
District: Montana
Resource Area: Lewistown
Size: Valley
320 acres, federal lands

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

All the land is under various oil and gas leases.

There is one grazing permit covering the total acreage of this unit.

The unit is so small it has to be viewed as a part of the larger geographic and vegetational types. This is heavy breakland with deep coulees, and steep head walls. There are some ponderosa pine and creeping juniper, but sagebrush and grasses dominate.

This unit is contiguous to Charles M. Russell proposed wilderness study area, Wagon Coulee.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: Carpenter Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-326
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 10,000 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is an abandoned homestead site, two reservoirs, several miles of livestock control fence and three miles of Jeep trail.

Dissected ridge lines follow the South Fork of Sutherland Creek. Grasses and sagebrush are predominant, but some locations of juniper and buffalo-berry brush occur.

With the exception of the 640 acres of private land which has been cultivated and is served by a Jeep trail, the unit appears to remain in its natural condition.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: Duck Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-328
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 6,400 acres, federal lands

The entire unit is covered by several oil and gas leases.

There is one reservoir, some jeep trails and several miles of undescribed livestock fence.

The entire unit is covered by 2 grazing permits.

There are areas where "breaks" appear around small coulees, but for the most part, the unit contains gently rolling hills. Grass and sage dominate, but some horizontal juniper is present.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: Gumbo Plateau
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-329
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 15,640 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are 2 reservoirs, 1 set of corrals and several miles of livestock control fence. Grazing permits cover the entire unit.

The unit is desolate, rugged and wild. The country is not beautiful but it is a valid representative of its type. It is near totally natural.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: Caravan
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-330
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 5,580 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Oil and gas leases cover the entire unit.

There are four reservoirs in the area.

Human activity consists of seasonal hunting and livestock management.

The unit consists of generally flat rolling prairie with some spots where glacial deposition appear. Shallow coulees exist but do not dominate as in other parts of South Valley County. Vegetation is sparse, with only sage and grasses represented over most of the unit.

This unit has little development of any kind, and the small reservoirs which do exist detract only slightly from its naturalness.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: South Fork Willow Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-331
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 10,800 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Oil and gas leases cover the entire unit as do grazing permits.

There is a sheepshed, several miles of livestock control fence and 12 reservoirs.

This area has some high benches composed of sandstone caps, gumbo knobs and occasionally exposed thin coal seams. Shrubs make up the coulee vegetation while short grasses cover the remainder of the vegetated area.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: Marsh Hawk Hills
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-336
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 78,340 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Oil and gas leases cover the entire unit. Grazing permits also cover 100 percent of the area.

Improvements in the area consist of livestock control fencing and 63 reservoirs.

There is an extensive waterspreader system in the northern portion.

Grasses and sage predominate, with some riparian zones along shallow coulee bottoms. The topography is very gentle rolling hills with traces of glaciation.

This large unit is an excellent example of northern plains grassland. It is heavily impacted by the water spreader system in the north and to a lesser degree by the widely scattered reservoirs in the south. These effects are masked by topography, and the worst of the impacts could be removed from the unit by a boundary change which would not reduce the size by a critical amount.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name:
Inventory Unit No.:
State:
District:
Resource Area:
Size:

Grant Coulee
MT-064-337
Montana
Lewistown
Valley
68,560 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Several oil and gas leases cover 100 percent of the area.

There are 16,640 acres under bentonite claim and of that 4,270 acres have had application to mine filed.

There are several miles of undescribed livestock fence, and 67 reservoirs.

There are 4 grazing permits over 100 percent of the area.

The area is dominated by grasses with sage and prickly pear cactus. Some cottonwoods dot the landscape, usually near a reservoir.

Deep coulees drop off to the west, but are basically unnoticed amid the rolling hills of the plateau.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name:
Inventory Unit No.:
State:
District:
Resource Area:
Size:

Pearson Coulee
MT-064-338
Montana
Lewistown
Valley
23,840 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Several oil and gas leases exist which cover 100 percent of the area.

There is a building on private land, many miles of undescribed livestock control fence, 27 reservoirs. There is also some well vegetated and apparently natural spreader dikes (covering approximately 640 acres) in the south.

There are 4 grazing permits, covering 100 percent of the area.

There is moderate hunting, fishing and activities associated with live-stock management.

There are 640 acres of water spreader system, numerous vehicle tracks and some contour furrowing in the unit.

It exhibits mostly exposed Bentonite ridges to the west, with more fertile land on the east. Grasses and sage dominate.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: Hurricane
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-340
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 7,040 acres, federal lands

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

All the land is under various oil and gas leases.

Approximately 3,840 acres are under Bentonite claim.

There are seven reservoirs, three miles of old cat track and some Bentonite mining pits.

There are three grazing permits covering 100 percent of the area.

There is one old caterpillar trail and two unrehabilitated Bentonite mining pits.

The unit is dominated by ridges of soft shale, flanked with extremely dense stands of horizontal Juniper.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: Coyote Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-342
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 22,430 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

All the land is under various oil and gas leases

There are 200 acres under claim to the Federal Bentonite Mining Company.

There are 14 reservoirs, about 8 miles of poor quality Jeep trail, and several miles of livestock control fence.

There are six grazing permits covering 100 percent of the acreage.

The eastern portion of this unit is composed of very rough hills with intricate canyon heads, vegetation is varied and some good riparian zones exist along drainages.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: Moss Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-343
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley - Phillips
Size: 20,160 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

All the land is under various oil and gas leases.

There are five 1/2 miles of poor quality Jeep trail and eight reservoirs of various sizes.

Three grazing permits exist, covering 100 percent of surface.

The unit contains rough sloping drainages rising to the east. It exhibits good riparian zones along some coulees; however, it is mostly dominated by sage and sodgrass.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: Sage Hen Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-346
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 7,540 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Various oil and gas leases exist on 100 percent of the unit.

Approximately 320 acres of this unit are under various Bentonite mining claims.

There are 13 reservoirs, several miles of livestock control fence, two corrals, and some minor vehicle trails.

There are four grazing permits covering 100 percent of this unit, as well as some Bentonite mining operations in progress.

This region is quite gentle in the north and becomes more rough to the south. Sage and grasses dominate with traces of riparian vegetation remaining along the coulees.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: Seventh Parallel
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-347
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 6,660 acres, federal lands

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Various oil and gas leases exist over 100 percent of this unit.

Approximately 2,000 acres of this unit are under various Bentonite mining claims.

There are some five reservoirs all less than five surface acres.

There are two grazing permits covering 100 percent of the unit.

The unit consists of rolling prairie cut by coulees. The dominant vegetation is sage and grasses.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: North Fork Brazil Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-348
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 7,960 acres, federal land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Various oil and gas leases exist which cover 100 percent of the unit.

Approximately 2,500 acres of this unit are under various Bentonite mining claims.

There are five reservoirs ranging in size from one to 300 surface acres.

There are two grazing permits covering 100 percent of this unit.

There is some Bentonite mining exploration. Hunting exists at a low level as do the activities associated with livestock management.

The unit exhibits fairly gentle rolling hills cut by deep coulees: sage and grasses dominate.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: South Fork Antelope Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-350
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 6,160 acres, federal lands

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is 1/2 mile of power transmission line in the extreme north portion of the unit.

Various oil and gas leases exist over 100 percent of this unit.

Approximately 2,260 acres are under some various Bentonite mining claims.

There are three small reservoirs, all less than five surface acres, and two miles of livestock control fence.

There are two grazing permits covering 100 percent of the unit, and some Bentonite mining operations.

The unit is composed of gently rolling hills cut by coulees. The vegetation is sage and grasses and whatever unnatural varieties may remain from plantings in the past.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: Antelope Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-352
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 15,840 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Various oil and gas leases exist which cover 100 percent of the unit.

Exact figures are not available but at least 640 acres are under Bentonite mining claim.

The different locations exhibit buildings which have been abandoned. There are also 10 reservoirs, mostly small, one is 80 surface acres.

There are 6 grazing permits which together cover 100 percent of the unit.

The area consists of gently rolling hills and shallow coulees. The dominant vegetation is sagebrush and grasses.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Bitter Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-356
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 53,640 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND INVENTORY

The proposed "Alaska Natural Gas Transit System" cuts through the southern 1/3 of this unit. Several different oil and gas leases exist which cover 100% of the area.

There are 39 small dams scattered throughout the area generally 3 surface acres or less. A few range upward in size to about 5 surface acres.

There are 8 grazing permits covering 100% of the unit.

This large unit exhibits great variety of north plains type flora. Sage, sed and bunch grass, prickly pear cactus, wild rose, willow, and horizontal juniper are a few of the most common species.

Broken by a 200' bluff with dramatic bad lands and intricately carved coulee heads, the unit exhibits one of the most impressive and scenic features of North Valley County. The bluffs are topped with wide expanses of gently rolling, glaciated plateaus.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Willow Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-357
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 39,040 acres public land

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Several different oil and gas leases exist which cover 100% of the area. There are 2 sets of corrals and 37 livestock water impoundments scattered throughout the area.

There are 10 individual grazing permits covering 100% of the unit.

Somewhat more annuals than other units of Valley County make this a beautiful place in the spring. It is dominated by sage and grasses. The topography varies with breaks to the west and south, showing heavy erosion, but the northeast is gentle, rolling, glaciated plains.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Crow Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-358
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 11,480 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Several oil and gas leases cover 100% of the unit.

There are 11 reservoirs and 3 surface acres or less and 1 set of abandoned buildings exist.

There are 4 individual grazing permits which cover the entire area.

This unit is uniform with little to no variation in topography and vegetation. The rolling plains with bunch grass and scattered sage seem endless.

This unit has few outstanding features, but it is of adequate size, unroaded, and basically natural.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Frenchman Creek-East
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-359
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley and Phillips
Size: 44,840 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Several different oil and gas leases exist which cover 100% of the area.

There are 46 livestock water impoundments scattered throughout the area, and one abandoned oil well.

There are 11 grazing permits, covering 100% of the area.

Vegetative and topographic features of the unit consist of ridge top sage, flanked by horizontal juniper, and large expanses of bunch grass. Topography is characterized by very rough broken hills and rough coulees dropping into the Frenchman and Snake Creek drainages.

There are few compromising features existing within this unit. They consist mainly of minor stock reservoirs, and low profile vehicle ways.

It is also important to note that this unit borders Canada, and is adjoined for several miles with the proposed "Canadian Grasslands National Park".

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): East Fork Crow Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-360
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 20,940 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Several oil and gas leases exist which cover 100% of the area.

There are 21 small reservoirs scattered throughout the area, generally 3 surface acres or less.

There are 5 individual grazing permits covering 100% of the unit.

Silver sage with horizontal juniper on west slope and sod and bunch grass interspersed over all.

Rolling glaciated hills divide two near-perennial streams, which both have good riparian zones. The water quality in this area is excellent.

It lays within 2 miles of the Canadian border, and shares numerous wildlife species with the proposed Canadian Grass Land National Park.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Little Flat
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-361
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 13,940 acres public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Several different oil and gas leases exist which cover 100% of the area.

Eighteen small reservoirs are scattered throughout the area.

There are seven individual grazing permits covering 100% of the area.

The area is composed totally of gently glaciated hills, with shallow coulees. The vegetation is nearly pure sodgrass.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: East Beauchamp (Tack-on)
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-365
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 960 acres, federal land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

There are approximately three miles of fence and one cattleguard throughout the unit.

The unit is breaks type topography. The major types of vegetation are conifers, ponderosa pine and juniper, and a mixture of short and mid-grasses.

This unit is contiguous to the C.M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge's "East Beauchamp" wilderness study area.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Beauchamp (Tack-on)
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-366
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 2,680 acres federal land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

There are six reservoirs, approximately five miles of fence and two cattleguards throughout the unit.

The unit is breaks type topography.

The major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and mid-grasses, sagebrush, and greasewood.

This unit is contiguous to the C.M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge's "Beauchamp Unit" wilderness area.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be intensively inventoried.

Lewistown District

Units To Be Dropped From Wilderness Consideration

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Weatherman Draw
Inventory Unit No.: MT-067-202
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Billings
Size: 6,033 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS

Approximately half of this area is covered with timber and the remainder is grasslands, interspersed with sagebrush. The area consists of rolling hills of 3,600 to 5,500 feet above sea level.

The area meets the size criteria but the naturalness criteria is not met. Because of the numerous caterpillar trails within the area, the imprint of man's work is substantially noticeable.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Note: This unit was erroneously listed as recommended for intensive inventory in the cover letter which accompanied the proposed initial inventory map.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Jack Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-067-203
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Billings
Size: 7,975 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

One easement is located within the unit which is on a pipeline.

There are also 52 oil and gas leases, covering the entire area.

Mining location of which bentonite is the most important covers the entire area.

Permanent improvements consist of a detention dam, 3 miles of fence and a spring development.

The major use of this area is grazing with some use by deer and bird hunters.

The general vegetative type is grass/sagebrush except on sandstone outcrops where juniper are found. The topographic features are high angle fault scarps which run in an easterly to northeasterly direction separated by relatively flat valley bottoms.

The unit meets the size criteria, but the naturalness of the unit is eliminated by bulldozer trails and prospecting pits.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Note: This unit was erroneously listed as recommended for intensive inventory in the cover letter which accompanied the proposed initial inventory map.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Stillwater Islands (American Legion Island)
Inventory Unit No.: MT-067-208/209
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Billings

UNIT ANALYSIS

Current status records indicate that there are no public land islands administered by BLM in the Stillwater River.

UNIT DECISION

These units will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Lake Mason
Inventory Unit No.: MT-067-213
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Billings

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The area contains 640 acres of state land and 160 acres of private land. There are 9,516.5 acres of public land.

There are 7 oil and gas leases covering the entire unit.

Permanent improvements consist of a lakebed diversion, 23½ miles of fences, Stanley Reservoir, three wells and a dam.

The major use of this unit is grazing with some use by antelope hunters and occasional use by bird hunters.

The known land treatment/manipulations consist of range seeding (approx. 330 acres).

The general vegetation type is grass/sagebrush common to eastern Montana. The topography of the unit is rolling hills with little topographic relief.

UNIT DECISION

This unit's apparent naturalness has been affected by the imprints of man. It will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Note: This unit was erroneously listed as recommended for intensive inventory in the cover letter which accompanied the proposed initial inventory map.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Little Wall Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-067-214
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Billings

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit consists of 5,765.84 acres of public lands.

Leases within the area consist of 26 oil and gas leases, covering the entire unit.

Permanent improvements: Permanent improvements consist of 6 reservoirs, approximately 20 miles of fence, 2 wells and 1 corral.

The area is leased for oil and gas but no development is apparent.

Approximately 750 acres of land have been cultivated and planted to crested wheatgrass.

The general vegetation can be described as a typical grass/sagebrush vegetation type commonly found in eastern Montana. No major topographic features are present within the unit, it is an area of rolling hills with little topographic relief.

UNIT DECISION

The unit contains works of man which are very obvious. It will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Note: This unit was erroneously listed as recommended for intensive inventory in the cover letter which accompanied the proposed initial inventory map.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Petroleum Northern Tier
Inventory Unit No.: MT-068-218
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith
Size: 8 parcels ranging in size from 40 acres to 1,080 acres. 4,120 acres total effected.

UNIT ANALYSIS

Easements: There area 2 powerlines which are inside the southern borders of the parcel in T. 12 N., R. 25 E., Sec. 13. There exists a material removal site in T. 12 N., R. 26 E., Sect 18 and a major road right-of-way at this location and Sec. 9. The land parcel in T. 12 N., R. 25 E., Sec. 29, 30, 31, and 32 is bisected by a major state highway, Highway 87.

There is one stock reservoir, 3½ miles of fence scattered around the parcels, one water well, and some minor vehicle trails.

These parcels are on flat to slightly rolling, open terrain. Generally, traffic on the major roads traversing around the areas, due to the terrain, is extremely visible and auto noise and fumes create on-site impacts. Vegetation is short grass prairie species with possibly some mix of non-indigenous species.

These small parcels are of inadequate size to offer the possibility of wilderness values. They are impacted by on and off site impacts stemming from major road systems and may carry a non-native vegetative cover. These areas are not recommended for further study.

UNIT DECISION

The areas will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Little Box Elder Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-068-219
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith
Size: 5,750 acres Federal Lands

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is an easement for an underground telephone line on the west side, a cable transmission line authorized to the Air Force in the center, and a materials supply site easement in T. 16 N., R. 23 E., Sec. 30 and 31.

The area is blanketed by 10 oil and gas leases.

There is one water well, 9 stock reservoirs, and approximately 18 miles of vehicle trails and several miles of fence scattered throughout the area.

The land is extensively planted in crested wheat, a nonindigenous species.

This is generally flat, open terrain with Little Box Elder Creek flowing west to east through the center. Riparian vegetation frames the creek, while the majority of the area is typified vegetationally by planted and native prairie grasses.

The area clearly and obviously should not be considered for wilderness. The manmade improvements can be seen from most areas within the unit and the vegetative manipulations are obvious.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Cat Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-068-220
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith

UNIT ANALYSIS

The unit consists of 7,300 acres federal land administered by BLM, 40 acres private land.

An underground telephone line exists in T. 15 N., R. 28 E., just inside Section 3. An above-ground powerline is barely inside the northern most part of the unit and continues down the east side.

The area is blanketed by 21 oil and gas leases.

The area contains 7 stock reservoirs, 14 miles of fence, one well, a corral, and a stockwater tank in the extreme south of the area, and a well in the western portion.

There has been appreciable oil and gas activity within the unit - the area is just northwest of the Cat Creek oil field and, at present, approximately 10 dry holes have been drilled. Livestock grazing and fall hunting are other important uses.

Scattered crested wheatgrass still grows within the unit, such that large portions of the unit are obviously unnatural.

Lying astride the Cat Creek drainage, this area contains flat sagebrush basins to moderately steep hills. Coulees are deeply incised in some areas. Very little juniper or pine vegetates the unit, mostly grass-sagebrush.

This area has seen sizeable oil and gas and some farming use at an earlier time. Because of indications on nonnatural vegetation and many vehicle roads made more visible by the flat terrain, the area is not recommended for further study.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Dry Armells
Inventory Unit No.: MT-068-226
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith
Size: 8,570 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

8,250 acres federal land, 320 acres private.

The area is blanketed by 20 oil and gas leases.

There are five reservoirs, two wells, four miles of fence, and a homestead located in T. 20 N., R. 21 E., Sec. 11.

The areas of land near the Harrison ranch buildings to the east are planted in crested wheat.

The area is dissected by Armells Creek in the center portion and by Dry Armells in the east flowing from south to north into Armells Creek. Upland areas are flat to rolling hills with many timbered coulees draining into the two intermittent creeks. The Bear Paw and Kootenai formation derived from clays and clay shales permit three vegetation types - big sagebrush, western wheatgrass, and Ponderosa pine on the shrub hillsides.

The area does not have potential for wilderness. The size is minimal to screen prominent off-site intrusions but more importantly, extensive crested wheat plantings remove any naturalness which the area might have.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Carroll Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-068-230
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith
Size: 6,320 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

6,000 acres federal, 320 acres private.

12 oil and gas leases cover the area.

There are 6 stock reservoirs and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of fence within the area.

Heavy grazing has changed the vegetative composition of the area.

Starting from plains lands in the south, the unit becomes more rugged and dissected as one heads north to the border of the Charles M. Russell Game Reserve. Texture comes from the vegetation (Ponderosa pine and juniper climax) patterns as they lie on the gullies and ridges. Prairie grasses and sagebrush predominate on the upland areas.

The area has had fairly heavy grazing use, such that deep cattle trails and a discernable change in vegetative species has occurred. In addition, there are on-site perceptions of vehicle traffic on the adjacent Mussel-shell trail. This results in an area with definitely degraded natural values.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Little Crooked Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-068-235
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith

UNIT ANALYSIS

The unit consists of 16,000 federal acres, 960 acres private land.

There is an underground telephone cable on the far eastern side of the unit just inside the boundary.

The area is blanketed by 22 oil and gas leases.

There are 22 stock reservoirs, 18 miles of fence and an interlace of vehicle trails within the unit. These improvements are spread throughout except for the lands in the eastern side (T. 19 N., R. 27 E.) which are largely undeveloped.

There appears to be one dry oil and gas hole in the southern section of the unit. Livestock management and fall antelope hunting are the more important uses.

Topography is generally flat to rolling, with deeper dissection near Little Crooked Creek. Almost no trees are within the unit boundaries, but almost all coulees are well vegetated with western wheatgrass and sagebrush, as are areas of more gentle terrain. On rougher topography, greasewood and watershed protecting mixed grasses are found.

This unit's wilderness values are adversely affected by the plethora of range improvements, especially on the western half. The flat terrain and lack of screening leaves the many range improvements very visible, thus diminishing a feeling of naturalness in the area.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Fort Musselshell Tack-on "g"
Inventory Unit No.: MT-068-241
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Judith
Size: 560 acres, Federal Lands

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

This area starts at the head of two drainage coulees heading into Fort Peck Reservoir. Bottoms are lightly timbered with Douglas fir and Ponderosa pine but the rolling terrain is more typically vegetated with prairie grass species.

This area is adjacent to the Fort Peck wilderness study area.

This area is not recommended for further consideration due to the major sound and fume intrusions on-site from relatively regular vehicle travel on the Musselshell trail to the immediate south. Even with a contiguous wilderness study area to the north, the unit is too badly degraded to be considered even as a tack-on.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Al's Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-066-257
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Area Office: Havre
Size: 26,938 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit includes 25,898 acres of Federal land, 640 acres of Montana State land, and 400 acres of private parcels.

The entire area is covered by 27 oil/gas leases.

The unit has 20-25 reservoirs, 10-15 miles of fence, 1-2 miles of gas pipeline, primitive vehicle trails, one active water well, one road with cattleguards which leads into a parcel of private land, 10 active gas wells, and 10 or more dry gas holes.

Approximately 40 percent of the area is forested with ponderosa pine interspersed with Douglas Fir and Juniper. Greasewood, sagebrush, and grassland blankets the remaining 60 percent. Where the soil is loose, steep, or exposed, small patches of barren badlands are seen.

The soil is a combination of clay and sand except in those areas where the remains of igneous rock, terraced gravel, and bentonite are found. Since this unit lies ten miles from the river, the very steep coulees are not so evident. Instead the unit is rolling and open with occasional dips down to Cow or Al's Creek.

The area does not have potential for wilderness. The entire unit has extensive oil/gas drilling sites interlaced with pipelines. Many of these sites and pipelines have been reseeded or cleared of trees. These disruptions along with the 2-3 thousand acres of sagebrush spraying have given the area an unnatural appearance.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: West Lonesome Lake & East Lonesome Lake
Inventory Unit No.: MT-066-259 and MT-066-260 (Respectively)
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Area Office: Havre
Size: 14,720 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The Bureau of Reclamation manages all the unit's Federal land except for one 40 acre tract administered by the Bureau of Land Management in East Lonesome Lake. Within the area are 5 small private parcels of land totalling 720 acres.

The western unit contains 7,600 acres, while the eastern unit possesses 7,120 acres.

A large overhead powerline with a 40 foot right-of-way divides both units.

The units contain 8 separate oil/gas leases. All but 1,400 acres are leased for 11 grazing allotments.

Improvements in the area consist of three stockwater wells, one windmill, numerous 3 and 4 strand allotment fences, over two miles of water pipeline, retention dikes, one county maintained gravel pit, one seasonally used small building, a six mile county maintained road which divides the two units, and four 4 foot high dry gas well marker pipes.

Various land treatments in the area include; a small stream has been dammed to create a large reservoir, vegetative and land rehabilitation of dry oil/gas wells and furrowing and seed planting on numerous sites.

Most of the site was at one time covered by a large lake. It's source had been dammed upstream exposing a flat drainage (with slopes rising 10-25 per mile) and a loamy soil that was excellent for growth of natural prairie grasses. In some areas occasional sand blowouts and salt seepages were also exposed. This lake, though, often refills making cattle grazing impossible.

The area obviously and clearly does not have potential for wilderness. The extensive grazing, grass seeding, dikes, powerline towers, powerlines, and reservoirs are visually evident from most locations in the unit. These intrusions destroy the area's natural qualities.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: East Fork Battle Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-066-262
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Area Office: Havre
Size: 9,760 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit includes 9,600 acres of federal land and one 160 acre privately owned parcel.

Except for 560 acres, the entire unit is covered by 8 separate oil/gas leases.

There are 5 stockwater reservoirs, 10-12 miles of fence, and numerous vehicle trails with two cattleguards in the southern half.

The terrain is a combination of rolling hills and glaciated plains with occasional deep coulees (50-100 feet in depth) that have year-round streams. It lies on well drained soils derived from shale and supports vegetative populations of prairie grasses with planted crested wheatgrass being the predominate species.

The area does not have potential for wilderness. Approximately seventy percent of the land has been replanted with crested wheatgrass giving it a "checkerboard" appearance. There are also numerous stockwater reservoirs and vehicle trails with cattleguards. These improvements are visually evident from most locations in the unit and destroy any natural qualities.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Choteau Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-066-263
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Area Office: Havre
Size: 5,400 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit consists of 5,080 acres of federal land and one 320 acre private parcel.

The unit's northwest corner is bisected by a 25 foot pipeline easement.

The entire unit is covered by 7 separate oil/gas leases.

There are 16 dispersed reservoirs, 3 miles of fence, two vehicle trails with one being recently graded, 4 dry gas holes with four foot high marker pipes, one active gas drilling site, and one 3/4 mile section of buried pipeline.

Land treatment in the area consists of:

Seeding of crested wheatgrass on scattered plots,

A current gas project exists which includes a grader trail for a distance of 1/4 mile and a drilling platform affecting a 1/2 acre plot.

Small coal mining intrusions have been left behind during the first part of this century.

The terrain is a combination of rolling hills and glaciated plains with occasional deep coulees (40-100 ft. in depth) that have year-round streams. It lies on well drained soils derived from shale.

The vegetation consists from a variety of prairie grasses with planted crested wheatgrass being the predominant species.

The area does not have potential for wilderness. Numerous parts of the unit have been replanted with crested wheatgrass giving the landscape a checkerboard appearance. The area also possesses 2-3 miles of vehicle ways, scattered reservoirs, and one active gas drilling site. All these aspects have given the unit an unnatural appearance.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: LaVelle Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-269
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 7,700 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit consists of:

BLM 7,700 acres

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

There are 17 reservoirs, one developed spring, approximately 16 miles of fence, six cattleguards, and approximately one-half mile of underground water pipe from the spring.

There are approximately 1,400 acres that have received sagebrush spraying to increase vegetative cover. There are approximately 50 acres in Section 12, that have been contour furrowed.

The unit is breaks and rolling prairie type topography.

The major types of vegetation are sagebrush, a mixture of short and midgrasses and greasewood.

The surface is clay, scabland, thin breaks and ordinary uplands.

The unit is divided by the BLM "Square Butte Branch" road which dis-qualifies the unit from intensive inventory on basis of size. The naturalness of the area is impeded by the vegetative manipulation, reservoirs, fencing and cattleguards.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Rock Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-270
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 12,000 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are numerous oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

There are 14 reservoirs, one water well, approximately 20 miles of fence, and five cattleguards throughout this unit.

Approximately 50 acres within the unit have been contour furrowed.

The unit is breaks and rolling prairie type topography. The major types of vegetation are mixed grasses, sagebrush, conifers and greasewood.

This unit is contiguous to the C.M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge.

Based on information provided by the public during the comment period, the unit was found to be divided by roads into several areas of less than 5,000 acres each.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration because it no longer meets the size criteria and its apparent naturalness has been destroyed by the evidences of man noted above.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Seven Mile Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-271
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 7,100 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

There are oil and gas leases throughout the area.

There are 14 reservoirs, approximately 14 miles of fence, and 4 cattleguards.

The area contains rolling prairie and breaks type topography.

The major types of vegetation are sagebrush and a mixture of short and mid-grasses.

This unit is contiguous to the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge.

The unit is divided by a county-maintained road which disqualifies the unit on basis of size. The portion of the area contiguous to lands managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service is lacking sufficient naturalness for further inventory consideration. The naturalness is impeded by 2 BLM roads, 10 reservoirs, and 10 miles of fence on less than 5,000 acres.

UNIT DECISION

Seven Mile Coulee will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: C. K. Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-272
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 6,000 acres, public lands

UNIT ANALYSIS

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

There are 9 reservoirs, approximately 9 miles of fence, and 3 cattleguards.

The area consists of rolling prairie and breaks type topography.

The major types of vegetation are sagebrush and a mixture of short and mid-grasses.

This unit is contiguous to the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge.

The unit meets minimum wilderness characteristics of size, however, it is approximately 9 miles long and an average of 1 mile wide. The naturalness of the area is impeded by the 2 maintained roads through and into the unit and other human intrusions or reservoirs, fencing, cattleguards, and contour furrowing. The road through Sec. 35 leaves approximately 180 acres contiguous to lands managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service. The 180 acres is open grassland and there is fencing along the refuge boundary.

UNIT DECISION

C. K. Creek will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Spring Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-063-273
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 9,600 acres, public lands

UNIT ANALYSIS

There are oil and gas leases.

There are 9 reservoirs, approximately 18 miles of fence, 1 cattleguard, and 1 fenced enclosure of 1½ acres.

The area is rolling prairie and breaks type topography.

The major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and mid-grasses and some small areas of sagebrush. The surface is scabland (sloped 4-30%), shale (sloped 31-45%), ordinary uplands (sloped 0-30%), or clay (sloped 16-30%).

This unit is contiguous to the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge.

The BLM "Spring Creek Spur Road" cuts the unit into 3 portions of less than 5,000 acres. The portion of the unit contiguous to lands managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service is approximately 2,000 acres which is separated in 2 places by private lands. The naturalness of the unit is impeded by the contour furrowing, reservoirs, cattleguard, and fencing. The open grasslands result in the human intrusions being rather obvious throughout the unit.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Hawley Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-276
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 13,340 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Public land 12,700 acres State 640 acres

There are ten oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

There are 24 reservoirs, one developed spring, approximately 17 miles of fence, and 6 cattleguards within the unit.

The unit is breaks type topography. The major types of vegetation are sagebrush, a mixture of short and midgrasses, and greasewood. The surface is scabland clay or ordinary uplands or shale.

Public comments were received early in the public comment period suggesting that this unit contained roads. During field investigation in response to this comment, it was determined and documented that the unit was fragmented into several pieces. This unit no longer meets the 5,000 acre size criterion or other size criteria.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration because it no longer meets the size criteria and its apparent naturalness has been destroyed by the evidences of man noted above.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Upper Beauchamp
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-279
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 5,600 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

There are 5 reservoirs, approximately 5 miles of fence, and one cattleguard throughout the unit.

The unit is rolling hills type topography.

The major types of vegetation are short and midgrasses and sagebrush.

The surface is ordinary uplands, shallow, or scablands and thin breaks.

Public comments were received early in the public comment period suggesting that this unit contained roads. During field investigation in response to this comment it was determined and documented that the unit was fragmented into several pieces. This unit no longer meets the 5,000 acre size criterion or other size criteria.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration because it no longer meets the size criteria and its apparent naturalness has been destroyed by the evidences of man noted above.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Grey Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-281
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 7,000 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

Throughout this area there are 4 reservoirs, approximately 8 miles of fence, 1 corral and 4 developed springs.

The topography of this unit is glaciated upland.

The major type of vegetation is a mixture of short and midgrasses.

The surface is ordinary upland or shale.

This unit has 2 roads which go through it and divide the area into 3 parcels of less than 5,000 acres.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Dog Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-283
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 5,300 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

Throughout this unit there are 13 reservoirs, approximately 12 miles of fence and one cattleguard.

The topography of this unit is rolling prairie.

The major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and midgrasses and sagebrush.

The surface is ordinary uplands (sloped 4-30 percent) or shale (sloped 31-45 percent).

A road through part of the unit divides it into two areas of less than 5,000 acres.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Coal Mine Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-284
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 6,380 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit consists of:

6,380 acres public land

Throughout this area there are four reservoirs, approximately 15 miles of fence, three cattleguards, and one developed spring.

A water spreader system overlaps from private lands in Section 10 of T. 24 N., R. 32 E.

The topography of this unit is sandstone capped prairie.

The major type of vegetation is a mixture of short and midgrasses.

The surface is ordinary upland, shallow or shale.

A road through part of the unit divides it into two areas of less than 5,000 acres.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness inventory.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Grouse Gulch
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-285
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 8,360 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit consists of:

8,360 acres public land

There are few oil and gas leases through the unit.

Throughout this area there are four mines and two developed springs.

The topography of this area is mountainous.

The major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and midgrasses, sagebrush, greasewood, conifers, and mountain shrubs.

There are five caves located within the unit.

The "Dry Gulch" road divides the area into two parts of less than 5,000 acres and disqualifies the unit for intensive inventory.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Camp Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-287
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 7,100 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are patented mining claims in Section 4 and 5 of T. 25 N., R. 25 E.

Four clear cuts ranging in size from 40 to 160 acres and several selective cuts were completed along Beaver Creek and the Burned Man Cave road between 1973 and 1976.

The topography of this area is mountainous.

The major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and midgrasses, sagebrush, greasewood, conifers, and mountain shrubs.

There is one cave located within this unit.

A road through the unit (Camp Creek fire trail and Burned Man Cave road) divides it into two areas of less than 5,000 acres. Additionally, the combination of selective and clear cuts have clearly altered the naturalness of the area.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Little Warm Spring Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-288
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 5,300 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

There is one maintained road through part of the area, a seasonal use road along the Little Warm Spring Creek.

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

There are 6 reservoirs, approximately 15 miles of fence and 2 cattleguards.

The topography consists of breaks and glaciated upland.

The major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and mid-grasses and sagebrush.

A road through part of the unit disqualifies it for intensive inventory on basis of size, less than 5,000 acres.

UNIT DECISION

Little Warm Spring Creek will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: North Fork First Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-289
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 7,400 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

There are 12 reservoirs, approximately 22 miles of fence, 1 windbreak, 1 cattleguard and 2 water windmills.

There is a reseeded area, 80 acres, of crested wheat in Section 11 of T. 25 N., R. 29 E.

The topography consists of glaciated prairie.

The major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and mid-grasses, sagebrush, greasewood and saltbush.

The naturalness of the unit is impeded by the density of reservoirs throughout, plus reseeding, fencing, windbreaks, windmills and cattleguard.

UNIT DECISION

North Fork, First Creek will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: White Rock Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-291
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 22,140 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit consists of:

Public land 21,500 acres State 640 acres

There is a reservoir right-of-way.

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit and one gas well has been drilled in Section 13 of T. 26 N., R. 29 E.

There are numerous bentonite mining claims and 1,188 acres have pending patent applications.

Throughout this unit there are 26 reservoirs and approximately 38 miles of fence.

The area use ranges from hunting to mineral exploration to livestock grazing.

The topography of this unit is breaks and rolling prairie.

The major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and midgrasses, sagebrush and salt bush.

Public comments were received early in the public comment period suggesting that this unit contained roads. During field investigation in response to this comment, it was determined and documented that the unit was fragmented into several pieces. This unit no longer meets the 5,000 acre size criterion or other size criteria.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration because it no longer meets the size criteria and its apparent naturalness has been destroyed by the evidences of man noted above.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Little Seven Mile Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-292
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 10,500 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is a right-of-way granted to bentonite mining claims within the unit and some open pit mining is presently taking place.

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

Throughout this unit there are 14 reservoirs and approximately 17 miles of fence.

Supervision of livestock facilities and supervision of livestock are common occurrences during the grazing season.

The topography of this unit is breaks and rolling prairie.

The major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and mid-grasses, sagebrush, and annual weeds.

The naturalness of the unit is impeded by the bentonite mining, claim assessment improvements, reservoirs and fencing.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Horse Pasture Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MI-065-293
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 6,900 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

There is one maintained road through the area, a county seasonal road from Section 14 to Section 35 of T. 27 N., R. 31 E.

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

There are also numerous bentonite mining claims.

There are 9 reservoirs and approximately 8 miles of fence.

The topography of this unit consists of rolling prairie.

The major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and mid-grasses and sagebrush.

The unit is divided by a road into 2 areas of less than 5,000 acres and is disqualified for intensive inventory on basis of size.

UNIT DECISION

Horse Pasture Coulee will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Trueblood Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MI-065-294
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips - Valley
Size: 23,800 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

There are numerous vehicle ways which provide access to private lands and for supervision of livestock.

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

There are also 53 reservoirs and approximately 67 miles of fence.

The topography consists of rolling hills.

The major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and mid-grasses and sagebrush.

The naturalness of the unit is impeded by the density of reservoirs throughout, the extensive fencing, and the numerous vehicle ways to private lands and livestock areas.

UNIT DECISION

Trueblood Coulee will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: West Alkali Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-295
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 5,000 acres, public lands

UNIT ANALYSIS

There are 4 roads which cut through portions of this unit - a seasonal use road along the east side, and 3 primitive type roads, through Sec. 7 of T. 28 N., R. 28 E., between Sec. 19 and 31 of T. 29 N., R. 28 E., and between Sec. 31, 34, 4, and 5 of T. 28 and 29 N., R. 28 E.

There are oil and gas leases throughout the area.

Exploration for bentonite is occurring at the present time.

There are 8 reservoirs and approximately 5 miles of fence.

There are approximately 1,280 acres that have been contour furrowed and seeded.

The topography consists of rolling prairie.

The major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and mid-grasses and sagebrush.

The unit is divided into areas of less than 5,000 acres and is disqualified for intensive inventory because of size.

UNIT DECISION

West Alkali Creek will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Rudolph Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-296
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 5,700 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

There are 18 reservoirs and approximately 15 miles of fence.

There are 1,120 acres which have been chiseled or grass reseeded. Shrubs have been planted around "Williams Coulee" reservoir.

The topography of the area consists of rolling prairie.

The major type of vegetation is a mixture of short and mid-grasses.

The naturalness of the unit is impeded by the density of reservoirs throughout, extensive fencing, and the vegetative manipulation.

UNIT DECISION

Rudolph Coulee will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Fourth Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MI-065-298
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 8,000 acres, federal lands

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

The unit has one gas well drilled.

Throughout this unit there are 15 reservoirs and approximately 9 miles of fence.

The topography of this unit is sandstone-capped rolling hills.

The major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and midgrasses and sagebrush.

Based on information provided by the public during the comment period, the unit was found to be divided by roads into 3 parcels of less than 5,000 acres each.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration because it no longer meets the size criteria and its apparent naturalness has been destroyed by the evidences of man noted above.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Assiniboine Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MI-065-299
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 9,000 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

There are 2 seasonal roads which go through parts of the unit - 1 from Sec. 2 to Sec. 35 and the other from Sec. 23 to Sec. 21 of T. 31 N., R. 29 E.

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

Throughout this area, there are 9 reservoirs, approximately 19 miles of fence, and 1 water well.

The topography of this unit is rolling prairie.

The major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and mid-grasses and sagebrush.

The roads which go through the unit disqualify it for intensive inventory on basis of size.

UNIT DECISION

Assiniboine Creek will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Horse Camp Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-300
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 7,300 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

There are 2 maintained roads which go through the unit - 1 from Sec. 16 to Sec. 5 of T. 31 N., R. 30 E., and the other from Sec. 11 of T. 31 N., R. 30 E.

There are oil and gas leases throughout the area.

Throughout this unit there are four reservoirs and approximately 16 miles of fence.

The topography of this unit is rolling prairie and breaks.

The major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and mid-grasses and sagebrush.

The roads through the unit disqualify it for intensive inventory on basis of size, less than 5,000 acres.

UNIT DECISION

Horse Camp Coulee will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Lonetree Sag
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-301
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 5,300 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

There are 3 gas pipelines with 25' right-of-way through all sections of the unit within T. 32 N., R. 31 E.

The gas wells each have an access road for routine service.

There are oil and gas leases, and 9 gas wells have been drilled. 5 of the 9 wells are hooked up to a major gas pipeline network of the Ashfield Unit gas field. The other 4 gas wells are part of the Bowdoin Dome gas field.

There are 6 reservoirs and approximately 5 miles of fence.

The topography consists of rolling prairie.

The major type of vegetation is a mixture of short and mid-grasses.

The naturalness of the unit is impeded by the gas field operation which has one or more gas wells in each section and an access road for servicing each gas well.

UNIT DECISION

Lonetree Sag will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Saco Hills
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-302
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 5,100 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

There is 1 underground pipeline easement of 25' through the area from Sec. 7 to Sec. 16 of T. 31 N., R. 33 E., and 5 other gas line easements from gas wells within the unit.

There is an access road to each of the 9 gas wells.

There are oil and gas leases throughout and 9 gas wells which are part of "Block B" of the Ashfield Unit gas field.

Throughout this area, there are 13 reservoirs, approximately 10 miles of fence, and 2 radio towers.

The topography consists primarily of a "breaks" type.

The major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and mid-grasses and sagebrush.

The naturalness of the unit is impeded by the gas field operation which has one or more gas wells in each section and an access road for servicing each gas well, plus the density of reservoirs and 2 radio towers.

UNIT DECISION

Saco Hills will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Lambing Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-305
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 11,360 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

Throughout this area there are 22 reservoirs, approximately 24 miles of fence, and a fenced reservoir for goose habitat.

The topography consists of rolling hills.

The major type of vegetation is a mixture of short and mid-grasses.

The naturalness of the unit is impeded by the density of reservoirs, extensive fencing, and the road to the goose habitat. All have significant impact on the open grasslands.

UNIT DECISION

Lambing Coulee will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Garland Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-306
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: Approximately 15,800 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

There are oil and gas leases throughout this unit.

There are 18 reservoirs, approximately 32 miles of fence, 5 developed springs, 1 windmill with 2 stock watering tanks, 3 reservoir fence enclosures, and 1 fenced study plot.

The topography of this unit is breaks and glaciated upland.

The major type of vegetation is a mixture of short and mid-grasses.

The naturalness of the unit is impeded by the density of reservoirs, fencing, livestock watering system, and vehicle trails used for maintaining livestock facilities and access to private lands. All have significant impact on the open grassland of the unit.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Davenport Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-307
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 5,200 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

There is one maintained seasonal road which goes through this unit from Section 16 to Section 20 of T. 33 N., R. 29 E.

There are two electric power lines which cross the unit - one through Sections 17 and 20 and the other through Sections 23 and 26 of T. 33 N., R. 29 E.

There are oil and gas leases throughout the area.

There are 3 reservoirs and approximately 14 miles of fence.

The topography of this unit is breaks and glaciated upland.

The major type of vegetation is a mixture of short and mid-grasses.

The road through the unit divides it into two areas of less than 5,000 acres and is disqualified for intensive inventory on basis of size.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Martin's Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-308
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 13,700 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

There are gas pipelines right-of-way throughout the area and access roads to each gas well.

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit and 19 gas wells have been drilled.

There are 24 reservoirs, approximately 16 miles of fence, 19 gas wells, and approximately 17 miles of gas pipeline.

The topography of this unit is rolling hills and breaks.

The major type of vegetation is a mixture of short and mid-grasses.

The naturalness of the unit is impeded by the gas field operation which has extensive gas pipelines and one or more gas wells in each section and an access road for servicing each gas well.

The naturalness is also impeded by the density of reservoirs and fencing throughout the open grassland of the unit.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Horseshoe Lake
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-309
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 17,500 acres, public lands

UNIT ANALYSIS

There are three maintained roads through the unit which provide access to private lands - a primitive road from Section 16 of T. 36 N., R. 29 E. to Section 28 of T. 36 N., R. 28 E., a primitive road from Section 19 of T. 36 N., R. 29 E. to Section 13 of T. 35 N., R. 29 E., and a primitive road from Section 19 of T. 36 N., R. 29 E. to Section 27 of T. 36 N., R. 38 E.

There are oil and gas leases throughout the area.

There are 20 reservoirs, approximately 41 miles of fence, 5 water wells, 2 developed springs, 4 windmills, and 1 T.V. tower.

There are 960 acres of L.U. lands which have been plowed and seeded in crested wheatgrass.

The topography of this unit is glaciated upland.

The major vegetation is a mixture of short and mid-grasses.

The unit is divided into four smaller areas by the roads through the unit and three of the areas are less than 5,000 acres. The naturalness of the area over 5,000 acres is impeded by reservoirs, vegetative manipulation, a T.V. tower, 2 water wells, and 2 windmills, on open grassland.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: West Whitewater Lake
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-310
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 23,100 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

There are buried gas pipelines and access roads to gas wells throughout the area.

There are oil and gas leases in the area and 26 gas wells have been drilled.

There are 35 reservoirs, 3 windmills, approximately 48 miles of fence, 26 gas wells, approximately 28 miles of gas pipeline, 2 corrals, and 5 cattleguards.

The topography of this unit is glaciated upland prairie.

The major type of vegetation is a mixture of short and mid-grasses.

The naturalness of the unit is impeded by the gas field operation which has one or more gas wells in each section and an access road for servicing each gas well.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Sink Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-311
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 6,720 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS

There are buried gas pipelines and access roads to gas wells.

There are oil and gas leases throughout the area and nine gas wells have been drilled.

There are eight reservoirs, approximately six miles of fence, nine gas wells, and four miles of gas pipeline.

The topography of this unit is glaciated upland prairie.

The major type of vegetation is a mixture of short and mid-grasses.

The naturalness of the unit is impeded by the gas field operation which has one or more gas wells in each section and an access road for servicing each gas well.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: East Fork Whitewater
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-312
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 6,880 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS

There are buried gas pipelines and access roads to gas wells.

There are oil and gas leases throughout the area and four gas wells have been drilled.

There are 16 reservoirs, 1 developed spring, approximately 15 miles of fence, 1 windmill, and 4 gas wells.

The topography of this unit is glaciated upland prairie.

The major type of vegetation is a mixture of short and mid-grasses.

The naturalness of the unit is impeded by the gas field operation which has four gas wells and an access road for servicing each gas well. The naturalness is also impeded by the density of reservoirs, fencing, and windmill, throughout the unit.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: North Woody Island
Inventory Unit No. MT-065-313
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips - Havre
Size: 14,300 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit.

Throughout this unit there are 19 reservoirs, two water wells, approximately 26 miles of fence, two cattleguards, and four windmills.

The topography of this unit is glaciated upland prairie and breaks.

The major types of vegetation are a mixture of short and midgrasses and sagebrush. Based on information provided by the public during the comment period, the unit was found to be divided by roads into ten parcels of less than 5,000 acres each.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration because it no longer meets the size criteria and its apparent naturalness has been destroyed by the evidences of man noted above.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Border
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-314
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 5,000 acres, public lands

UNIT ANALYSIS

There is one seasonal road through the unit in Section 12 of T. 37 N., R. 27 E.

There are oil and gas leases throughout the area.

There are 11 reservoirs, 1 windmill, approximately 12 miles of fence, and 2 cattleguards.

The topography of this unit is glaciated upland prairie.

The major type of vegetation is a mixture of short and mid-grasses.

The road which goes through part of the unit reduces the size to less than 5,000 acres and disqualifies the unit for intensive inventory.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Upper Whitewater Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-315
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 6,900 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

There is one primitive maintained road through the unit from Section 14 to Section 18.

There are oil and gas leases throughout the area.

There are 13 reservoirs and approximately 7 miles of fence.

The topography of this unit is glaciated upland prairie.

The major type of vegetation is a mixture of short and mid-grasses.

The road through the unit divides it into two areas of less than 5,000 acres and disqualifies the unit for intensive inventory.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Big Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-316
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 23,600 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS

There are buried gas pipelines and access roads to gas wells throughout the Eastern side.

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit and nine gas wells have been drilled.

There are 19 reservoirs, approximately 66 miles of fence, 1 windmill, and 9 gas wells.

The topography of this unit is glaciated upland prairie.

The major type of vegetation is a mixture of short and mid-grasses.

The naturalness of the unit is impeded by the gas field along the East side, reservoirs, extensive fencing, and vehicle trails associated with grazing operations throughout the open grassland.

UNIT DECISION

The Big Coulee unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: North Pea Lake
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-317
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 9,200 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

There are buried gas pipelines and access roads to gas wells in the area.

There are oil and gas leases throughout the unit and 10 gas wells have been drilled.

There are 18 reservoirs, approximately 23 miles of fence, 10 gas wells, and 9 miles of gas pipelines.

The topography of this unit is glaciated upland prairie.

The major type of vegetation is a mixture of short and mid-grasses.

The naturalness of the unit is impeded by the gas field operation which has one or more gas wells in each section and an access road for servicing each gas well.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: West Pea Lake
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-318
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 15,340 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

There are buried gas pipelines and access roads to gas wells throughout the unit.

There are oil and gas leases and 27 gas wells have been drilled.

Throughout this unit there are 38 reservoirs, approximately 24 miles of fence, 4 cattleguards, 1 windmill, 27 gas wells, and 33 miles of gas pipeline.

The topography of this unit is glaciated upland prairie.

The major type of vegetation is a mixture of short and mid-grasses.

The naturalness of the unit is impeded by the gas field operation which has one or more gas wells in each section and an access road for servicing each gas well.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Pea Lake
Inventory Unit No.: MT-065-319
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Phillips
Size: 7,600 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

There are buried gas pipelines and access roads to gas wells throughout the unit.

There are oil and gas leases and six gas wells.

There are 10 reservoirs, 2 dike systems, approximately 17 miles of fence, 1 cattleguard, 1 corral, 6 gas wells, and 6 miles of gas pipeline.

The topography is glaciated upland prairie.

The major type of vegetation is a mixture of short and mid-grasses.

The naturalness of the unit is impeded by the gas field operation which has one or more gas wells in each section and an access road for servicing each gas well.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Roosevelt Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-332
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 7,500 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

There is 1 underground power transmission line, with 3 terminals along the north border.

The area is covered by various oil and gas leases.

There are 4 reservoirs from 3 to 5 surface acres in size and several vehicle ways crisscrossing the unit.

This entire unit is one large gentle slope rising from north to south. The vegetation is almost entirely sparse grasses.

This unit is impacted in relatively minor ways. However, there is absolutely no screening effect present at any place within the boundary. This coupled with the limited size (7,500 acres) renders all the minor intrusions very major.

The underground power line markers, reservoirs, and vehicle ways which would otherwise go unnoticed, here stand out, removing even the most remote impression of wilderness.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Browning
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-333
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 7,680 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

There is an underground power line and various markers along the north border.

All the land is under various oil and gas leases.

There are nine reservoirs from one to five surface acres in size. There is part of an old aerial gunnery range dating to WW II.

This entire unit is one large gentle slope rising from north to south. The vegetation is almost entirely sparse grasses.

The impacts on this unit might appear minimal if it were not for its small size (7,680 acres) and the open exposed nature of the landscape. The vehicle tracks, gunnery range, reservoirs and various other intrusions are visible from nearly the total unit.

The effect of this renders the unit totally void of wilderness character. The unit is not recommended for intensive study.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Bomber
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-334
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 13,440 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

The unit contains 6 miles of both telephone and power lines.

All the land is under various oil and gas leases.

There are several WW II bombing ranges, 17 reservoirs from 1 - 20 surface acres and at least 640 acres of well defined water spreader system.

The bombing ranges have totally changed the character of the land, as has the spreader system and larger reservoirs.

One long gentle slope rising to the south, with dissecting drainages, supports sparse sodgrass and sage with some creeping juniper.

The various bombing ranges, 17 reservoirs, large spreader system, 2 types of electrical line and various vehicle tracks have totally changed the naturalness of this unit. It is also possible that live rounds of ammunition still exist presenting some public hazard in this unit.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Lone Tree
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-335
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 43,520 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

Several different oil and gas leases cover 100% of the area.

There are 50 reservoirs from approximately 5 to 1,000+ surface acres. Also at least 25 miles of fence and a well defined system of jeep tracks.

Over 5,000 acres of water spreader system exist, and at least 30,000 acres heavily impacted by the building and maintenance of large dams and reservoirs.

The topography consists of rolling glaciated hills, with coulees broken by numerous dams. The vegetation is dominated by sod and bunch grass, and scattered big sage on hills and silver sage in draws.

This unit is covered by large and visible reservoirs, most of which show heavy livestock trampling damage around the shorelines. The construction and maintenance degradation associated with the larger units causes significant visual impact.

In the north there are at least 6 square miles of well maintained and poorly vegetated water spreader system, which has an unnatural appearance.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Mud Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-339
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 5,760 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

All the land is under various oil and gas leases.

There are 800 acres of water spreader system and three small reservoirs.

This unit is dominated by various types of grass with only scattered horizontal juniper. The topography is generally low hills, cut by coulees.

The water spreader system and cultivation alone have nearly totally changed the natural character of this unit. The one small area which is not affected by these developments is cut by a fairly well traveled vehicle way. The unit is not recommended for further study.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Beaverette Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-341
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 18,100 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS

The unit consists of Public Land - 18,056 acres; Private - 50; Total 18,106 acres.

There are several oil and gas leases covering 100% of the area.

There are 3,840 acres under Bentonite mining claim.

There are some 13 miles of fence and at least 10 vehicle trails. There are nearly 1,000 acres under the surface of 13 reservoirs, from five acres to 5,000 acres in size.

There are approximately 2,560 acres involved in one large water spreader system, several spoil piles, and other degradation as a result of large reservoir construction. There is also some contour furrowing marginally noticeable.

The area consists of generally rolling glaciated hills, broken by shallow coulees, dominated by grasses and big sage.

This area, because of the lack of natural screening (shrubs and hills) accent the various intrusions. The spreader system, vehicle tracks, spoil piles, and the furrowing have totally changed the natural quality of the unit.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): North Fork Little Beaver
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-344
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 23,780 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

This unit has approximately eight miles of well constructed and maintained road. This is heavily used by large trucks serving the Federal Bentonite Processing Plant.

Various oil and gas leases exist covering 100% of the area.

At least 26 sections of this area are under various Bentonite mining claims.

There are twelve various locations of Bentonite mining activity totaling something close to 500 acres, plus support roads.

There are few land treatments other than those associated with Bentonite mining.

This area is composed of gently rolling, glaciated hills, cut by moderate to deep coulees. Most of the country exhibits good grasses of various kinds, with scattered areas of sage.

The heavy Bentonite mining in this unit, combined with its support roads render it totally void of wilderness character. Any possible rehabilitation of this unit is made extremely difficult by the extreme tendency to erode.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Miller Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-345
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 12,220 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

Approximately 2,000 acres of this unit are under various Bentonite mining claims.

There are two old Bentonite mining pits, at least 500 acres of water spreader system, and about seven miles of well constructed Bentonite mining support road. There are nine reservoirs ranging in size from 3 to 300 surface acres.

The unit is composed mostly of gently rolling prairie cut by coulees. Sodgrass and sage dominate, with only traces of other vegetation along the bottoms.

Th old Bentonite mines, combined with the new ones, and their support vehicle tracks, have dramatically changed the character of this unit.

Most of the unit is at present unimpacted. However, there is no natural screening, and the various intrusions are visible from any location within the boundary.

This unit has virtually no wilderness character remaining.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Brazil Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-349
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 11,000 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

There are three miles of railroad track, and at least three miles of power transmission underground line.

Various oil and gas leases exist over 100% of the total unit.

Approximately 5,000 acres of the unit are covered by various Bentonite mining claims.

There are five or six small reservoirs, less than one surface acre. Though not on the unit, the Federal Bentonite processing plant exist less than 200 feet from the boundary.

There are at least nine Bentonite mining operations in process at this time, covering some 200+ acres scattered along the south border and eastern central portion.

The gently rolling prairie is cut by numerous rugged coulees. The dominant vegetation is sage and grasses.

The railroad, which is heavily used, and the open mining operations are more than enough to totally compromise any natural quality which may have existed. It is impossible to escape any of these impacts. Bentonite trucks and other heavy equipment proliferate along support roads, and at the mining locations.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Billick Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-351
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 10,120 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

This unit contains 8 miles of railroad and 8 miles of underground power line.

Various oil and gas leases cover 100% of the area.

At least 640 acres are under Bentonite mining claim.

There are 5 stock watering reservoirs all less than 5 surface acres.

The unit exhibits rolling hills cut by coulees. The dominant vegetation is sage and sodgrass.

The railroad serving the Federal Bentonite processing plant runs near the center of this unit. It is regularly used and trains are visible from all parts of the unit at numerous times on any given day.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Eagles Nest
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-353
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 16,120 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

There is approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of telephone line in the northwest quarter.

Several oil and gas leases exist which cover 100% of the area.

Numerous fire breaks exist, maintained by roadgraders, used as vehicle trails. There are 8 reservoirs, 2 of which are over 20 surface acres.

Some areas show traces of unnatural successional vegetation as a result of historic cultivation. Numerous well defined vehicle tracks exist.

The unit is predominately rolling glaciated prairie. There are several areas with good riparian zones along streams. Most of the land, however, is dominated by prairie grasses.

The natural character of this unit is compromised so significantly by the bladed fire breaks, trampled reservoir shores, and unnatural vegetation it has no real wilderness value remaining.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Canyon Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-354
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 12,800 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

Various oil and gas leases exist which cover 100% of the unit.

There are some small reservoirs, but the dominant improvement is some 20+ miles of fire break, cut with roadgrader, and used by vehicles as a road.

Much of the unit at some time in the past has been cultivated and now show traces of unnatural vegetational succession.

Most of this unit is gentle rolling prairie. However, one drainage, Canyon Creek, does have some near bad lands type breaks around the center of the unit. Bands of sage run along the ridges, while sodgrass dominates most of the terrain. There is some riparian vegetation along Canyon Creek, willow, and roses mostly. This is heavily impacted by grazing.

The well maintained fire breaks (bladed yearly), are used as roads. In some places, they have cut several feet into the soil over the years. This intrusion pattern of bladed ways is visible over the entire unit and would require major effort to rehabilitate.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Rock Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-064-355
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Resource Area: Valley
Size: 14,440 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS

Various oil and gas leases exist which cover 100% of the unit.

There are about 5 small reservoirs, and also numerous jeep trails, one of which serves as a seasonal access to some private land near the center of the unit.

Much of the unit exhibits non-natural vegetational succession as a result of cultivation in the past.

A very impressive small canyon cuts through the center of this unit. At the canyon walls there are some sparse upright junipers (rare in this country) and the flood plain exhibits good stands of cottonwood, willow, and rose.

Away from this canyon rolling prairie with sage and sodgrass dominate.

This unit might be considered were it not for the numerous vehicle ways which intrude and the extremely poor ownership pattern. The only part of this unit with wilderness value is basically some 800 to 1,000 acres in a narrow band near the center.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Name: Scattered Tracts
Inventory Nos.: MT-064-362, 064-363, 064-364, 065-321, 066-265,
067-215, 068-248
State: Montana
District: Lewistown
Size: 1,783,604 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND DECISION

The area considered in the situation evaluations referenced above pertains to scattered tracts of public land, less than 5,000 acres per tract. No public comments were received to support further wilderness consideration. These tracts, therefore, are dropped from wilderness consideration.

Miles City District

Units To Be Intensively Inventoried

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Yellowstone Islands
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: Approximately 402 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

MT-024-610: Approximately 5 acres within T. 6 N., R. 35 E., Sec. 22.

MT-024-611: Approximately 4 acres within T. 6 N., R. 39 E., Sec. 14.

MT-024-612: Approximately 2 acres within T. 6 N., R. 42 E., Sec. 6.

MT-024-613: An island of approximately 32 acres within T. 7 N., R. 46 E., Sec. 14 and 23. Another island of approximately 100 acres within T. 7 N., R. 46 E., Sec. 14, 15, 22 and 23. These are the Cheyenne Islands. They have been recommended as a Natural Area.

MT-024-614: An island of approximately 31 acres within T. 12 N., R. 50 E., Sec. 13.

MT-024-615: An island of approximately 147 acres within T. 13 N., R. 52 E., Sec. 25 and 36 and T. 13 N., R. 53 E., Sec. 30 and 31.

MT-024-616: An island of approximately 83 acres within T. 21 N., R. 58 E., Sec. 26 and 27.

Rationale:

Whether these islands meet wilderness criteria can only be determined by, and verified by, intensive inventory.

UNIT DECISION

The Yellowstone River islands will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Unit Name: Missouri River Island
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-617
State: Montana
District: Miles City

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The island is in the Missouri River seven miles west of the North Dakota-Montana border.

The surface ownership of each island listed is entirely public land. The size and location was based on legal plats. However, there has been rechanneling of the river as evidenced by discrepancies between the plat map and other source maps. There are one or more islands of approximately 621 acres within T. 27 N., R. 58 E., Sec. 26, 27, 34 and 35. The island may, if it is determined to be an island, have potential for wilderness suitability.

UNIT RECOMMENDATION

The unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: East Bridge Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-632
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 7,300 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is one mile of underground telephone cable on the north boundary.

There are 5 miles of vehicular ways, 8 reservoirs (the largest of which is 5 acres), 12 miles of fences and less than a mile of underground waterpipe in the northeast corner.

Grazing permits cover the unit.

Activities associated with grazing, range development, maintenance, and hunting occur on the unit.

The unit is drained by Bridge Coulee and several unnamed creeks. The drainage pattern is to the east-southeast. The flat bottoms of Bridge Coulee break abruptly into modest ridges. The transition zone between the flat creek bottoms and flat ridgetops displays colorful strata. Mildly broken topography occurs on the east. Elevations range from 2,600' on the west to 2,300' on the east. The unit is entirely grassland.

Despite developments, the unit may meet the naturalness criteria and may have outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Billy Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-633
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 3,480 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Size: The 4 units total 3,480 acres in size. They are of approximately 1,800, 400, 1,200 and 80 acres from west to east boundary.

There is an old fire trail one mile in length. It has been lightly bladed, but has revegetated. There are 3 reservoirs within the unit, but no fences. The unit is fragmented by 3 roads running from private land north to private land with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service land. Due to the steep topography, they are extensively improved with half and full bench cuts.

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: The unit is generally within Billy Creek drainage, which flows north into Fort Peck Reservoir. Approximately 400 acres along the southern boundary are drained to the south by tributaries of Snow Creek.

EVALUATION

The unit does not meet all the criteria to warrant further wilderness consideration. But the 4 units are contiguous to land of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that have been recommended for further wilderness study.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: MT-024-634
Inventory Unit No.: Montana
State: Miles City
District: 7,030 acres
Size:

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Easements: There is a 40-acre free use permit in T. 11 N., R. 56 E., NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$. There is a 40-acre selective land use permit in T. 11 N., R. 56 E., NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

The status of oil and gas leasing within the unit is unknown at this time.

There are $\frac{6}{8}$ miles of vehicular ways, 5.5 miles of fence, 3 reservoirs and 7 wells in the unit.

Activities associated with grazing, range development and hunting occur in the unit.

There are four parcels of seeding totalling 525 acres in the unit.

General Vegetative and Topographic features: The unit is generally within Cabin Creek drainage and has a northeast aspect. Small unnamed and generally intermittent tributaries flow northeast through moderate coulees out of the unit into Cabin Creek. A small portion of the divide between Cabin Creek and Pine Creek is in the southwest portion of the unit. The only portion of the unit containing even partially dissected topography is in the upper reaches of the tributaries of Cabin Creek. The remainder of the unit is moderately rolling terrain. The unit is exclusively grassland, although there are considerable amounts of brush in the coulee bottoms in Cabin Creek and on the open sloped within Pine Creek Drainage.

This unit meets minimum requirements for further wilderness consideration.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Timber Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-635
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 6,500 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: The unit is encompassed by, but does not totally include, the headwaters of Timber Creek, which flow northwest out of the unit. The highest elevations of 3,100 feet occur in the southeast corner of the unit and drop with Timber Creek to 2,800 feet. There are very few, if any, trees with some brush in the coulee bottoms. Most of the unit is covered with grasses and forbs. The dominant species in the north are green needlegrass, western wheat, and threadleaf sedge. In the south the dominant species are needle-and-thread grass and western wheat.

The area appears to meet all the criteria to warrant further wilderness consideration. Human activity, at this time, seems to be relatively light and is primarily centered around hunting and livestock management. Land improvements in the area consist of 6 miles of vehicular ways, 4 miles of fence, 6 reservoirs and 5 windmills.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Lone Tree-Ash
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-642
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 19,040 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

One parcel of 640 acres of State and 320 acres of private land and a second parcel of 320 acres of private land are each totally surrounded by the unit.

Three miles of easement for an underground telephone line exists along the southwestern boundary.

There are 19 miles of vehicular ways, 12 reservoirs, 12 miles of fences and 1 well. There are underground water pipeline systems totalling 8 miles in length within the unit. There is a network of waterspreaders in the southern portion of the unit.

Grazing permits cover the entire unit.

Activities associated with grazing, range development, maintenance and hunting occur in the unit.

The drainage pattern of the unit is to the east into the Dry Arm of Fort Peck Reservoir. The major drainage is Cottonwood Creek. Some tributary coulees of Snap Creek to the south and portions of Ash Creek to the north also drain the unit. Both Ash Creek and the western portion of Cottonwood Creek is flat, rolling terrain. The divide between the two contains a narrow discontinuous string of moderately broken formations which expose colorful strata. The south side of Cottonwood Creek, especially in the east, also has moderately broken formations of the highest density in the unit. The unit is exclusively grassland.

Despite developments, the unit may meet the naturalness criterion and may have outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Sand Arroyo
Inventory Unit No.: MT-020-48-643
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 6,990 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are 320 acres of private land surrounded by public land in the northwest corner of the unit.

There are three miles of vehicular ways within the unit. There are six reservoirs within, or partially within, the unit. Six miles of fence, mostly in the southern portion of the unit, divide the unit into three pastures and there are several water wells within the unit.

The unit is entirely under grazing permits.

The major portion of this unit is drained by Sand Arroyo which flows directly into the Dry Arm of Fort Peck Reservoir. Minor drainage occurs southward in the North Fork of Rock Creek. The western and southern portions of the area have moderately broken topography with the north being gentler. The vegetation is exclusively grassland.

There are .5 miles of contiguity with U.S. Fish and Wildlife administered land along the western boundary.

Despite developments, the unit may meet the naturalness criterion and may have outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

WILDERNESS UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name:
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-645
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 9,720 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

General Vegetation and Topographic Features: The east-west ridge south of Shade Creek is the core of the unit. Tributaries of Rock Creek and Flying Creek flow south out of the unit. These coulees provide moderately broken topography. The unit is grassland with a few trees near reservoirs.

The unit appears to meet the criteria to warrant further wilderness consideration. Human activity is light and associated with hunting and grazing. There have been some improvements made on the land but not enough to eliminate the area from further wilderness study.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name:
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-646
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 13,440 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is one piece, 320 acres in size, of private land surrounded by public land in the unit.

There is .25 miles of an easement in T. 23 N., R. 44 E. There is 1.75 miles of a 10' easement for an underground cable within the unit.

There are a few miles of vehicular ways within the unit. There are eleven reservoirs, fifteen miles of fence and a sealed well within the unit.

The entire unit is covered by grazing permits.

Activities associated with grazing, range development, maintenance and hunting occur on the unit.

The northern portion of the unit is drained by north-northwesterly flowing coulees of the South Fork of South Rock Creek. The southern portion of the unit is drained by tributary coulees of McGuire Creek which flows southwest. The divide between the two creeks is flat, although the coulees provide some diversity of topography. The entire unit is grassland.

Despite developments, the unit may meet the naturalness criteria and may have outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Germaine Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-648
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 5,065 acres

There are 320 acres of private land surrounded by public land.

There are two miles of vehicular ways, four reservoirs, and one mile of fence in the unit. (A .75 mile vehicular way "deadends" into the unit to a reservoir.)

The unit contains the upper portions, but not the headwaters, of three tributaries which flow west into the Musselshell River or Fort Peck Reservoir. The eastern portion of the unit is formed by high benches covered with grasses. The western portion of the unit is composed of steep, red shale cliffs and partially broken rimrocks. Elevations range from 2,900' in the southeastern corner to 2,400' where the drainages leave the unit on the west. There is Ponderosa pine and juniper throughout the unit.

There are 7½ miles of common boundary on the west between the unit and Fish and Wildlife administered land. However, none of that land is recommended for wilderness in the F&WL proposal.

Despite developments the unit may meet the naturalness criterion and may have outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: South Fork Little Squaw Creek Inventory
Unit No.: MT-024-649
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 16,900 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

16,900 acres in size.

There are 10 miles of vehicular ways within the unit, some of which have evidence of improvement. There are 15 reservoirs in the unit, three acres or smaller. There are 15 miles of fence within the unit, mostly in the eastern portion and there is one water well in Curry Coulee.

Activities associated with grazing, range development, maintenance and hunting occur on the unit.

The South Fork of Little Squaw Creek flows north from its headwaters through the unit. Small meadows, sandstone cliffs and white limestone formations characterize the creek bottom. The side coulees have small stands of Ponderosa pine and juniper. Elevation ranges from 3,000' in the south to 2,350' in the north boundary.

Public comments suggested that there are roads within the unit. One of these was field examined and verified. The unit was fragmented into two portions of 16,400 acres and 500 acres. The eastern portion of 500 acres will not be intensively inventoried because it does not meet the size criteria. Despite developments the western 16,400 acres of the unit may meet the naturalness criterion and may have outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

UNIT DECISION

The 16,400 acres of the unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Jack Lane Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-650
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 8,540

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: Seventynine Coulee, a tributary of Lodgepole Creek, is the major drainage of the unit. It flows from the north through moderately rolling hills to the south through slightly broken topography. In the west, along Barker Coulee, and in the east, along Jack Lane Coulee, the topography is more dissected. The southern boundary of the unit includes, along most of its length, the transition between that broken topography and the flat bottoms of Lodgepole Creek. Elevations range from 2900' in the north to 2500' in the south. The vegetation in the north is ponderosa pine within the crests of the hills and grassland on the crests of the hills. There is a transition to grassland with only scattered ponderosa pine in the south.

This area appears to meet all the criteria to warrant further wilderness consideration. Human activity is light except for hunting and grazing activities. There has been some development of the area, but not enough to eliminate the area from further wilderness study. Land development at this time consists of: 6 miles of vehicular ways, 2 reservoirs, 5 miles of fence, and a windmill.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Lodgepole Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-652
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 7,580 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: The unit lies on both sides of the ridge between Lodgepole Creek and the South Fork of Lodgepole Creek. Each creek is actually in the unit for .25 miles. Numerous tributaries flow northeast into Lodgepole Creek or southwest into the South Fork of Lodgepole Creek. The land is not precipitous or broken, but is fairly steep. Elevations vary from 2900' along the ridge to 2500' in the creek bottoms. Ponderosa pine occur on 30% of the unit, mostly on north slopes. The remainder of the unit is composed of grassy meadows and knobs.

This area appears to meet the requirements for further wilderness consideration. Human activity is light and consists primarily of seasonal hunting and some livestock management. Land improvements in the area include: 7 reservoirs, a pit associated with a dry oil well, 7 miles of vehicular ways and 6 miles of fence.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: North Squaw Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-653
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 7,250 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is one parcel of 480 acres of private land that is surrounded by public land of the unit.

There are four miles of vehicular ways, five reservoirs, and four miles of fences in the unit.

Activity associated with grazing, range development, maintenance, and hunting occur on the unit.

Moderately broken topography is common in the northwestern portion of the unit. There is a transition to hilly terrain along the south and east boundaries. The entire unit is in the Squaw Creek drainage which flows northwesterly. One of its major tributaries, Wolf Creek, flows through the unit for one mile. Elevations range from 2,950' on the ridges on either side of Squaw Creek to 2,500' on the northern boundary of the unit. The unit is generally shortgrass prairie with scattered stands of Ponderosa pine. The pine is of a higher density on the west than the east.

The 400 acres of the unit in T. 19 N., R. 33 E., Sections 7 and 8 should be dropped from the intensive inventory. It is connected to the unit by a corridor of public land 100 yards wide, has no potential for wilderness suitability, and will not contribute wilderness suitability to the remainder of the unit.

The remaining 6,850 acres of the unit may have wilderness characteristics.

UNIT DECISION

The western portion of the unit (6,850 acres) will be intensively inventoried. The 400 acres will not be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Squaw Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-654
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 7,070 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: The Dry Fork of Squaw Creek passes northwesterly through the unit and bisects it. The Hay Coulee - Dry Fork Squaw Creek divide is approximately coincident with the southern boundary of the unit. Elevations of 3200' occur on the southern ridge. The elevation drops to 2750' in the northwestern corner. The unit is an open rolling grassland dotted with ponderosa pine stands.

The area appears to meet the criteria for further wilderness consideration. Human activity is limited to hunting and livestock management. Land development has been minimal and would not be cause for elimination of this area from wilderness consideration without an intensive inventory.

and improvements in the area consist of; 2½ miles of vehicle ways, 5 small reservoirs, 3 miles of fence, a road deadending into the unit and an underground pipeline under the road.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Seven Blackfoot
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-657
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 19,800 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are about 3.5 miles of vehicular ways in four places deadending into the unit from the boundary. There is a partially improved vehicular way along the divide east of Seven Blackfoot. (Billy Creek and Snow Creek drainages are to the east of it.) It lies along the ridge and does not appear to be maintained. It is within the unit in five places with a total length of 1.75 miles.

There are five reservoirs and about 8 miles of fence in six portions within the unit.

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: Almost the entire unit is within Seven Blackfoot Creek drainage. It flows north onto FWL land and into Fort Peck Reservoir. Approximately 2,000 acres in the northwest portion of the unit are within Big Coulee Creek. Approximately 200 acres in five portions along the east boundary are in Snow Creek or Billy Creek drainages. The tributaries of Seven Blackfoot each have different characteristics. Generally, those in the northwest have rolling meadows interspersed with stands of ponderosa pine. In the southeast the coulees are steeper and narrower with some Douglas fir. The bottoms contain cottonwood and sagebrush. Despite the extent and diversity of tree species, the unit has large portions of grassland.

Approximately 8 miles along the northern boundary of the unit are contiguous with two units of U.S. Fish and Wildlife lands recommended for Wilderness.

This unit appears to meet the requirements for further wilderness consideration.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Maloney Hill
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-661
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 19,480 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: The unit is drained by several tributary coulees (Jordan, Reid, and East Reid) of Hell Creek. These coulees drain north or northwesterly. Their southern extent is approximately coincident with the south and southeast boundaries of the unit. The elevation of the unit ranges from 3000' in the east to 2400' where Reid Coulee leaves the northern boundary. The southeastern portions of the unit are dominated by grassy benches. In the north the moderately broken topography contains gumbo domes and buttes with brilliant strata. The vegetation is sparser in this northern terrain.

Developments include a radio tower in the eastern portion of the unit and range improvements.

The western portion of the area meets the criteria to warrant further wilderness consideration. There are relatively small amounts of land development in the west and very little evidence of human activity. The portion of the area east of the $\frac{1}{4}$ mile neck is eliminated from the intensive inventory because of the extensive land development present. The acreage of the western portion is 17,120. The eastern portion contains 2,360 acres.

UNIT DECISION

The western portion of the unit (17,120 acres) will be intensively inventoried. The eastern 2,360 acres will not be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Crooked Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-662
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 6,530 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: The unit is almost entirely within the drainage of Crooked Creek which flows northwesterly. A small portion in the northeast is within Cracker Creek drainage. About 15% of the mainstem and most of the bottom lands of Crooked Creek are on private lands which almost bisect the unit. There are a few knobs, some of 2800' elevation, on the west side of Crooked Creek. The low point of the unit is about 2500'. The vegetation in the unit is entirely grass-land.

This area appears to meet all the criteria to warrant further wilderness consideration. There has been very little land improvement and human activity is light except for seasonal hunting and livestock grazing. There are oil and gas leases covering about 50% of this unit.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT EVALUATION

Area Name: Woody Flat
Inventory Unit No.: MT-020-665
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 9,800 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit is drained by Murry and Flat Creeks and their tributaries or tributaries of Woody Creek. The general drainage pattern is to the southeast into Big Dry Creek which is out of the unit. The topography of Murry Coulee is moderately dissected gumbo with some deep side coulees and scattered knobs. The portion of the unit within Flat Creek drainage is moderately undulating grassland, although there are isolated Buttes. Within some of the coulees of north exposure are a few juniper.

There are reservoirs, fences and vehicular ways mostly in the Flat or Woody drainages. There is a powerline extending less than a mile up Murry Coulee.

Note: This unit is the residual of a larger block of public land considered during the accelerated inventory associated with the Northern Tier Pipeline. In that process, public lands to the north, south and west of this 9,800 acre unit were removed from further wilderness consideration because they did not have wilderness characteristics.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Cairn Butte
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-671
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 5,270 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: The unit contains some of the eastern tributaries of LS Creek and, further east, the headwaters of Ada Creek. These drain north-northwest into Big Dry Creek. Buttes, knobs and coulees provide moderate topographic diversity. However, most of the unit is gently rolling terrain. Elevations range from 2950' on the east to 2550' on the north. The vegetation is exclusively grasses.

The area appears to meet the criteria for further wilderness consideration. Human activity in the area seems to be almost nonexistent and consists mostly of range maintenance. Permanent improvements in the area consist of 4 miles of vehicular ways, 1 mile of fence, 5 reservoirs and a single powerline 5 miles long which crosses the unit. Approximately 3,150 acres of the unit are covered by oil and gas leases.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Bridge Coulee
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-675
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 5,650 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: The drainage pattern is to the west towards the Musselshell River. The three major coulees are, from north to south, Smith, Sandage and Bridge. Elevations range from 2900' in the southeast to 2380' along the west boundary. Grassy finger benches slope westward interspersed with deep gullies and canyons. Weathered sandstone, shallow caves and exposed white limestone provide diversity from the ponderosa pine and grassy vegetation. A moisture elevation gradient is evident from east to west. Ponderosa pine are more prevalent on the moister benches and higher elevations to the east. A 12,000-acre fire burned portions of the unit in 1973. Ponderosa pine snags and lush grasses characterize the burned acres.

The unit appears to meet all the criteria for further wilderness consideration. Human activity is light except for seasonal hunting and some grazing management.

There are a few range improvements and a telephone easement in the unit.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: MT-024-676
Inventory Unit No.: Montana
State: Miles City
District: 9,000 acres
Size:

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: The unit is entirely within the Calf Creek drainage which flows northwesterly into the Musselshell River. However, only about .5 mile of Calf Creek is in the unit. The remainder is on private land which penetrates into the unit from both the northwest and the southeast. Tributary coulees of Calf Creek are largely within the unit. Those on the northeast flow generally southwesterly and include North Wilson, Lower Newhouse, Newhouse, and Sheep Coulees. Following northeasterly into Calf Creek and Teepee Coulee are several unnamed coulees. Elevations vary from 3020' in the northeastern part of the unit to 2520' along the boundary adjacent to Calf Creek bottom. The vegetation is dominated by ponderosa pine which are predominantly on the ridgetops. Yucca, prickly pear cactus and Rocky Mountain juniper are common. The steep coulee bottoms are dominated by grasses as is the unit as a whole.

The unit appears to meet the criteria for further wilderness consideration. Human activity is light and consists primarily of seasonal hunting and range management. There are several reservoirs, fences, and a vehicular way in the unit. There is a small private cemetery in the northwest corner that should be removed from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Musselshell Breaks
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-677
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 8,200 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: The drainage of the unit is to the west towards the Musselshell River. Haley, Wagner and Williams Coulees are the major drainages. The southeastern portion of the unit has rolling grassy meadows interspersed with ponderosa pine. These grassy meadows are dotted with prickly pear cactus. In the northwest, the coulees are steeper and the conifers are fewer. The elevation ranges from 3000' along the ridges on the east to 2500' along the Musselshell River bottom.

There is 150 acres of withdrawn land in the Musselshell bottom and west of the river which should not be considered as part of the inventory unit. The unit east of the Musselshell River appears to meet all the criteria to warrant further wilderness consideration. There is slight evidence of human activity primarily in the form of seasonal hunting and range developments.

UNIT DECISION

The 8,050 acres of the unit east of the Musselshell River will be intensively inventoried. The remaining 150 acres will not be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Lisk-Cherry
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-679
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 6,150 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Fifteen hundred acres of mineral rights are private.

There are twelve miles of vehicular ways within the unit and two miles of fencing. There are two reservoirs approximately two acres in size. Three windmills and associated wells are located in the unit. One other well is located in T. 15 N., R. 47 E., Section 31. There are two miles of underground waterpipe in the southern portion of the unit.

Old plow marks have left 25 acres of scars.

In the north, the area contains the headwaters of Lisk Creek which flow north. In the south is a portion of the headwaters of the North Fork of Cherry Creek. The maximum elevation is 3,300 feet along the Lisk-North Cherry divide dropping to 3,000 feet in those creek bottoms where they leave the unit. There are few trees and coulee bottoms have considerable brush. The majority of the area is grassland with the dominant species being needle-and-thread grass, western wheat, and threadleaf sedge.

Despite developments, the unit may meet the naturalness criterion and may have outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: Brackett Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-685
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 14,030 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is 1.5 miles of underground telephone line.

There are 17 miles of vehicular ways, 5 reservoirs, 9 miles of fences and 7 wells.

Activities that occur in the unit include grazing, range development maintenance, and hunting.

The area is drained primarily by Brackett Creek or its tributaries. Brackett Creek flow south out of the unit and into the South Fork of Cedar Creek. The bottom of Brackett Creek is flat or moderately rolling topography. Several of the tributary coulees to the west are quite deep.

Elevations range from approximately 2,900' on the west divide of Brackett Creek to approximately 2,500' in the southern portion of the unit. The general impression is of moderate topography sloping off to the east towards Brackett Creek becoming flatter as the creek is approached. The vegetation is exclusively grass.

Public comments suggested that a road existed in the unit. This was field investigated and verified. The unit was fragmented into 3 pieces. The westernmost 2 units are each less than 5,000 acres and will not be intensively inventoried. The eastern unit may contain wilderness characteristics and is 7,130 acres. It will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT DECISION

The 7,130 acres roadless area in the eastern portion of the unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-691
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 5,100 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are six miles of vehicular ways and three miles of fences in the unit. There are no reservoirs. There are three drill holes and two pit reservoirs.

Activities associated with grazing development, maintenance and hunting occur in the unit.

Approximately forty acres of contour furrowing was done in Sec. 29, T. 11 N., R. 39 E.

The divide between Stellar and Little Porcupine Creeks runs north-northwest within this unit. Just west of this divide is an abrupt 100 ft. drop and then a very flat transition drained by tributaries of Stellar Creek. To the northeast of the divide is moderate topography containing several coulees, including Badland Coulee, which drains into Little Porcupine Creek. The unit is lightly vegetated with forbs and grasses.

Despite developments, the unit may meet the naturalness criteria and may have outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: East Hell Creek - Crooked Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-924-699
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 160 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: The unit is in the western limit of Crooked Creek drainage. It is flat grassland.

The area appears to be in a natural state. There are very few land improvements within the unit and human activity appears to be minimal. The unit's west boundary is contiguous to the East Hell Creek unit, a proposed US Fish and Wildlife Service wilderness area.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Zook Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-701
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 9,720 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: Whitten Creek, Nelson Draw, Zook Creek and Coal Bank Creek flow east-southeast out of the unit into the Tongue River and drain the southern and eastern three-fourths of the unit. Several unnamed tributaries drain north into Cook Creek. Elevations of over 4100' occur on several of the ridges and drop through rugged terrain to 3250' in the drainages along the east boundary. Scattered stands of ponderosa pine intermingled with grasses comprise the vegetative cover of the unit.

The area appears to meet the criteria to warrant further wilderness study. Human activity seems to be light and centered around hunting and range development. Unit development includes 6 miles of vehicle ways, 4 reservoirs and 1 mile of fence. There are 720 acres in the unit leased for oil and gas exploration.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Buffalo Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-702
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 8,310

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is 1 mile of vehicular way, 2 reservoirs, 1 mile of fence, 1 well, 1 improved spring, and 4 miles of underground waterline.

General Vegetation and Topographic Features: The dominant feature of the unit is the ridge forming the divide between the Powder River and one of its tributaries to the east, Buffalo Creek.

Elevations range from 4100' along the ridge to 3380' along the western boundary. The unit is steep, but smooth in the south and steeper and rougher towards the north exposing some strata. Ponderosa pine is the dominant vegetation, particularly in the southwest of the unit. Even in the southwest, the pine occurs primarily in the slopes of north aspect. The top of the ridge and the northeast portion of the unit are characterized by intermingled meadows and isolated pine stands. Cedar is found in the coulee bottoms.

The area appears to meet the criteria to warrant further wilderness study. Human activity in the area appears to be minimal. There have been some land improvements, but the naturalness of the area may not have been disturbed.

During the public comment period it was suggested that a road existed in the unit. This was field investigated and verified. The unit is fragmented into two pieces. The southern portion is 370 acres. Since it does not meet the size criteria it will not be intensively inventoried. The northern unit of 7,940 acres may have wilderness characteristics and will be intensively inventoried.

The acreage figure (of 6,740 acres) released in the proposed initial decision is incorrect. Recalculation shows it to be 8,310 acres.

UNIT DECISION

The northern portion of the unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Buck Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-703
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 7,280 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is a 1 mile long easement for an underground water pipe.

There are 1.5 miles of vehicular ways, 4 reservoirs, 5.5 miles of fence, and 1 drill hole.

General Vegetation and Topographic Features: The unit contains approximately 6 miles of a ridge, running east and west, which is the divide between Powder River (south of the unit) and on of its tributaries, Cache Creek. Small tributary coulees of Powder River (Bar Creek, Cedar Creek, and Flood Creek) drop to the southeast through rough terrain into Powder River. The tributaries of Cache Creek flow north through flatter terrain. The eastern portion of the unit is predominantly grass but mixed grass with ponderosa pine on the northern aspects. The vegetation of the western portion of the unit is grass. Elevations range from 4010' in the northeast portion of the unit to 3200' along the eastern boundary.

Human activity appears to be light and primarily includes hunting and range management.

Despite developments the unit may meet the naturalness criterion and may have outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Rough Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-704
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 5,400 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are 1.5 miles of vehicle ways, 2 miles of fence, a reservoir of 2 acres, and an underground water line a mile in length. There is a drill hole in the northwest corner of the unit (T. 5 S., R. 49 E., Sec. 13).

General Vegetation and Topographic Features: The unit contains 5 miles of the ridge between Rough Creek to the north and Cache Creek (and a tributary, Dripping Spring Creek) to the south. They drain southeasterly into the Powder River. Numerous small tributary coulees drop off the ridge, which is over 3900' in elevation, rather steeply to the southwest into Cache Creek or the north into Rough Creek. The lowest elevation in the unit is 3200' in the southeast corner. Ponderosa pine stands cover about 15% of the units and grow on the north side of the main ridge and on the north slopes of many of the coulees. The remainder of the unit, especially the somewhat flatter northern portion, is dominated by grasses.

The area appears to meet the criteria to warrant further wilderness study.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Dry Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-709
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 8,480 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are 5 miles of fence, 6 reservoirs totaling 17 acres, 6.5 miles of vehicular way, 1 windmill and 1 well.

General Vegetation and Topographic Features: There are several small prominent hills, and a northwest-southeast trending ridge with a 200' cliff in the western part of the unit. Most of the drainage trend northward, to form Whitetail Creek, also flowing north. A few drainages flow southwest from the ridge to Dry Creek, outside the unit. Vegetation is almost all grasses and sagebrush, but with some pines and junipers (1% or less).

The area appears to meet the criteria to warrant further wilderness consideration. Human activity in the area is light and primarily involves range management and seasonal hunting. The land improvements probably do not detract from the naturalness of the area.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Spring Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-710
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 9,960 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: The dominant feature of this unit is a ridge running east-west in the northern part of the unit. The southern edge of this ridge forms cliffs ranging from 100 to 300 feet high. Elevations range from 3500 to 2900 feet. Spring Creek runs east-northeast through the southern part of this unit and several drainages trend southwest from the ridge to Spring Creek.

This unit appears to meet the criteria to warrant further wilderness study. Developments in the area consist of 6½ miles of vehicle ways, 5 miles of fence, 1 well and 3 reservoirs of a total surface area of 2 acres. Human activity appears to be light and consists of grazing and hunting activities.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: MT-027-711
Inventory Unit No.: Montana
State: Miles City
District: 60,500 acres
Size:

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: Drainage is to the south-east into Box Elder Creek which is entirely outside the unit. The two major tributary drainages of Box Elder Creek, which drains the unit, are Cabin Creek (the mainstem of which is mostly in a peninsula of private land outside of the unit) and Deadboy Creek. Two other tributaries of Box Elder Creek, Buffalo Creek and Lone Tree Creek, drain the northern portion of the unit.

The topography is moderately rolling. The vegetation is generally grassland with the species mix influenced significantly by the extensive contour furrowing and waterspreader development.

There are 6,000 acres of contour furrowing, 1,000 acres of waterspreader development, 25 miles of vehicle ways, approximately 72 reservoirs in the unit. The unit has approximately 82 miles of fence spread evenly over the area. Also, there is an 8 mile underground pipeline running through the western portion of the unit.

Four portions of the unit totalling 38,000 acres may meet the naturalness criterion and warrant intensive inventory. (See portions of map labeled "A", "B", "C" and "D".) The remaining 22,500 acres do not meet the naturalness criterion. They will not be intensively inventoried.

UNIT DECISION

The 38,000 acres specified will be intensively inventoried. The remaining 22,500 acres specified will not be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Corral Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-712
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 37,480 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: A ridge running generally north-south divides the unit in the middle. The eastern half of the unit has gentle slopes with drainages heading southeast toward Corral Creek, which is south of the unit. Timber Creek, on the western half of the unit is formed by drainages forming 200 foot breaks in the central ridge. Elevations range from 3600 to 3020 feet which is the elevation as Timber Creek leaves the northwest portion of the unit. Most of the unit is grasses and sagebrush with some cottonwoods in the southwest portion of the unit.

This unit appears to meet the criteria to warrant further wilderness consideration. There have been several improvements made on the land including: 39 miles of vehicle ways, 49 miles of fence and 41 reservoirs of between 5 and 15 acres each. There is also a pipeline 3 1/2 miles long running through the eastern portion of the unit. Human activity appears to be light at the present time and limited to range development and seasonal hunting.

UNIT DECISION

This unit will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Muskrat
Inventory Unit Number: MT-027-714
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 7,480 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

General Vegetation and Topographic Features: This unit has gentle slopes with elevations ranging from 3570 feet in the northern and western portions to 3360 feet in the eastern part of the unit. Most of the drainages trend to the southeast, Muskrat Creek being the largest. These drainages flow to Box Elder Creek, out of the unit. The vegetation is almost entirely grasses, with some brush in the coulee bottoms. There are no trees in the unit.

There are 7 miles of vehicle ways, 4 miles of fence and 9 reservoirs. There is a 50 foot easement (total) for an underground pipeline right-of-way in the western part of the unit and is 4 miles long. There is also a contour furrowing project covering several hundred acres in the northern section of the unit. Human activity appears to be light and consists primarily of hunting and range management.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Cottonwood
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-715
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 36,240 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: A ridge with low relief runs northeast/southwest through the central part of this unit. Some drainages run southeast from that ridge to form North and South Cottonwood Creeks. Most of the other drainages run northwest into Box Elder Creek (out of this unit). Elevations range from 3,930 to 3,510 feet with a few prominent hills (mesas with 200 foot dropoffs) in the northern section. Grasses and sagebrush cover this unit with some cottonwoods in the drainages and a few junipers and pines.

This unit is reduced in size to 26,140 acres. The unit contains many land improvements including 40 miles of vehicle ways, 29 miles of fence and 26 reservoirs. There is also a pipeline 8 miles long that runs through the entire unit. The new boundaries appear to meet all the criteria to warrant wilderness consideration.

UNIT DECISION

The 26,140 acres described above and delineated on the map will be intensively inventoried. The remaining 10,000 acres will not be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Prairie Dog
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-716
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 39,720 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: Most of the western and northern sections of the unit are drained by unnamed creeks flowing northwest into Box Elder Creek, which is out of the unit. The western part of the unit is the most rugged with the highest elevation 4,060 feet. Several prominent hills are found in this "Finger Buttes" area. The eastern and southern portions of the unit have easterly-trending drainages heading toward the Little Missouri River. The lowest elevation, 3,240 feet, occurs in the flatter eastern portion of the unit. Here, grasses and sagebrush cover the area with many cottonwoods along the creeks. The western part of the unit has a large covering of pines.

The area has undergone considerable land improvement including: 37 miles of fence, 36 miles of vehicle ways and 51 reservoirs.

This unit is divided into six portions. Two of the portions are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

The remaining four portions warrant intensive inventory as they may meet the naturalness criterion. The acreage of those four units is 31,760. The acreage of the portions dropped from further wilderness consideration is 7,560.

UNIT DECISION

The 31,760 acres specified will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Beaver Dam
Inventory: MT-027-717
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 10,040 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

General Vegetation and Topographic Features: The topography has low relief, with elevations ranging from 3630 to 3290 feet. In the southeast part of the unit drainages radiate out in all directions from the high point of this unit. Beaver Dam Creek cuts through the central part of the unit heading northwest, with most other drainages flowing into Beaver Dam Creek. Vegetation is grasses and sagebrush with some cottonwoods in the drainages.

This unit appears to meet the criteria to warrant further wilderness consideration. Oil and gas leases cover half of the northern part of this unit. The area has had land improvements consisting of 9 miles of vehicle ways, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of fence and 20 reservoirs. This unit also contains 1480 acres of private land.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Indian Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-718
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 16,540 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: South Indian Creek runs southeast out of the unit and drains the southern half of the unit. Elkhorn and Horse Creeks drain the northern section of the unit and flow northward into the unit with elevations ranging from 3660 to 3230 feet. Vegetation is predominantly grasses and sagebrush with some cottonwoods along the drainages.

This area appears to meet the criteria to warrant further wilderness consideration. Land improvement in the area consists of: 23 miles of vehicle ways, 7½ miles of fence and 25 reservoirs. Human activity in the unit is light and consists primarily of seasonal hunting and range management.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Owl Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-719
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 14,667 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: Owl Creek runs southeast through the unit and drains most of this unit. Elevations range from 3240 to 3720 feet. A southeast-northwest trending ridge runs on the east side of Owl Creek. The ridge has breaks up to 200 feet high caused by drainages running off the ridge into Owl Creek. The rest of the unit has low relief. Sagebrush and grasses grow over the unit with some cottonwoods along the drainages.

This unit appears to meet the criteria to warrant further wilderness consideration. Land improvements within the area include: 13 miles of fence, 20 miles of vehicle ways, 643 acres of contour furrows in the southwest corner and 27 reservoirs. Human activity in the area appears to be light and is associated primarily with hunting and range management.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Fence Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-020-721
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 6,110 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: The north part of the unit is relatively flat with moderately deep canyons (350') cut by drainages flowing to the south. These drainages flow southeast to the eastward-flowing Fence Creek, which is out of the unit. Elevations along the rim of the canyons are up to 4200' with the lowest elevations in the unit being 3700' at the canyon bottoms. Grasses and sagebrush cover much of the area with pines and junipers covering about 10% of the unit. These pines grow mainly along the upper reaches of the canyons and the canyon bottoms.

This area appears to meet the criteria to warrant further wilderness consideration. Land improvements within the area include 4 miles of fence, 4 miles of vehicle ways, 2 reservoirs and 2 drill holes. There also are 4 oil and gas leases within the unit covering about 160 acres.

Human activity in the area appears to be light and includes grazing, range development and some seasonal hunting.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Cottonwood Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-723
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 6,590 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: A southeast-northwest trending ridge covers the eastern two-thirds of the unit with creeks on either side of it flowing southeast into the Little Missouri River, which is out of the unit. Drainages from most of the unit flow into one of these two creeks. The highest elevations (3580') occur in the southwest part of the unit where drainages flow south toward Willow Creek. The low elevation is 3380'. Grasses and sagebrush cover the unit with some cottonwoods along the creeks.

The area appears to meet all the criteria to warrant further wilderness consideration. Land improvements in the area include 10 miles of fence, 9 miles of vehicle ways and 11 reservoirs.

Human activity in the area appears to be light.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Dixon-Deep
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-728
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 5,760 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is a Special Land Use Permit that occupies NWSE Sec. 21, T. 9 N., R. 49 E.

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: The unit is within Dixon and Deep Creeks which flow north-northwesterly into the Yellowstone River. The ridge between them is in places 2900' high and the elevation at which the creeks leave the unit is 2500'. The topography is characterized as rolling hills which are dissected by the deep cuts of Dixon and Deep Creeks. The vegetation is grasses with cottonwood in the coulee bottoms.

This area appears to meet the criteria to warrant further wilderness consideration. Land improvements in the area consist of 5 miles of vehicle ways, 2 small reservoirs (1 acre), 2 wells, .3 miles of underground pipeline and 2 parallel high voltage powerlines in the northwestern corner. Human activity appears at this time to be light.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Willow Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-729
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 6,464 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: Most drainages in the southern and eastern part of the unit flow eastward to Thompson Creek which is out of the unit. Most of the drainages flow north to South Fork Willow Creek. Relief is low and elevations range from 3900' to 3520'. Grasses and sagebrush cover the unit.

The area appears to meet the criteria to warrant further wilderness consideration. There are 10 miles of vehicle ways, $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles of fence, 13 reservoirs and a waterspreader project. The area also has about 400 acres of land covered by oil and gas leases.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Whitetail
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-730
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 5,850 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. has a 20' total right-of-way for an underground communications line. This right-of-way goes for about 1 mile through the unit.

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: Several prominent hills 200' high are located on a ridge running north-south through the center of the unit. The east side of the ridge is drained by Whitetail Creek which flows north out of the unit. The highest hill on the ridge is 3260' with the lowest elevation being 2900'. Grasses and sagebrush cover most of the unit with some pines, junipers and cottonwoods.

This unit appears to meet the criteria to warrant further wilderness consideration. The area has undergone some land improvements, including 5 windmills, 2 reservoirs, 4 miles of fence and 6 miles of vehicle ways.

During the public comment period it was suggested that a road existed in the unit. This was field investigated and verified. The portion of the unit west of the road is 5,120 acres, and will be intensively inventoried. The portions of the unit east of the road do not meet the size criteria (140 and 590 acres) and are removed from intensive inventory. The acreage figure (of 6,980 acres) released in the proposed initial decision is incorrect. Recalculation shows it to be 5,850 acres.

UNIT DECISION

The western portion of the area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Crow
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-732
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 20,860

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: The northeastern part of the unit is drained by the three forks of Whitetail Creek, all flowing southeast. Most of the unit is drained by unnamed creeks which trend toward the northwest. Topography is gentle with elevations from 3690' to 3290'. Grasses and sagebrush dominate with some pines, junipers and cottonwoods.

This unit appears to meet the criteria to warrant further wilderness consideration. Land improvements within the unit consist of 19 miles of fence, 26 miles of vehicle ways and 12 reservoirs. There is also a buried waterpipe from a spring for about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. Oil and gas leases cover most of this unit.

There is one area of 320 acres of private land completely surrounded by public land.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Deadman Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-733
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 9,540 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Easements: There is a 50' total easement for an underground pipeline right-of-way issued to Butte Pipeline Co. (M-018460) in Montana, W-034964 in Wyoming). The pipeline runs north and south through the center of the unit and is 5.5 miles long. There is a linear right-of-way of unknown status not shown on the MT plats. This is marked as a pipeline on the topo maps.

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: A ridge runs north and south through the western part of the unit. The high elevation of the unit (3890') is on the north part of the ridge. Drainages off the west of the ridge flow a short distance into Deadman Creek. Most drainages flow southeast into Thompson Creek, which is out of the unit. The low elevation of the unit is 3520' near Thompson Creek. Grasses and sagebrush cover the unit.

The area appears to meet the criteria to warrant further wilderness consideration. Land improvements in this area consist of 17 miles of vehicle ways, 10½ miles of fence and 19 reservoirs. Also, there are 1,040 acres of oil and gas leases in the Wyoming portion of the unit.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Whitetail Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-734
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 6,250 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Easements: There is a 50' total easement for an underground pipeline right-of-way issued to Butte Pipeline Co. (M-018460). The pipeline runs north and south through the eastern part of the unit for one mile. Permanent Improvements: There are 5.5 miles of fence, 3 miles of vehicular ways, 4 corrals scattered over the unit, and 11 reservoirs.

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: The three forks of Whitetail Creek drain this unit as they flow generally southeast. A ridge runs along the northern boundary of the unit reaching 3,580', highest elevation in the unit. Most of the unit is lowland drained by Whitetail and reaches a low elevation of 3,380' in the eastern part of the unit. The unit is almost entirely covered by grasses.

Despite developments the unit may meet the naturalness criterion and may have outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Tongue River Breaks Contiguity
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-736
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 2,004 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The acreage of the southern unit is 1,324. The acreage of the two northern units is 40 and 640.

Permanent Improvements: There are two small reservoirs and one well in the units.

General vegetation and Topographic Features: The drainage of the units is generally towards the northwest into the Tongue River. The only such drainages named are Gate Creek and Black Eagle Creek. Elevations range from approximately 3850' in the south near the Forest Service boundary to approximately 3100' in the north units near the western boundary. The units contain the transition between the mountains to the east on Forest Service lands and the alluvial bottom of Tongue River. Scattered stands of ponderosa pine occur on 10% of the unit and exclusively on north aspects. The remainder of the unit is grassland.

The three units by themselves do not merit further study. However, they may enhance the wilderness suitability of the Forest Service Tongue River Breaks roadless area.

Together they do not meet the 5,000-acre size criterion. However, they are contiguous to Forest Service lands of 16,600 acres currently recommended for wilderness designation.

UNIT DECISION

The units will be intensively inventoried.

Miles City District

Units To Be Dropped From Further Wilderness Consideration

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Plenty Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-636
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 5,600 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is a special land use permit of 40 acres in T. 13 N., R. 49 E., Sec. 6.

Approximately 4,300 acres of the unit are under oil and gas leases.

There are two miles of vehicular ways, five miles of fences, two reservoirs and four wells.

Numerous intermittent streams flow south out of the unit into Cherry Creek. The western three-fourths of the unit is quite flat. The eastern portion of the unit contains several small coulees. Elevations range from 2592' along the south boundary (Cherry Creek Road) to 2900' in the northeasterly part of the unit. The entire unit is grassland.

The unit does not provide opportunities for solitude or for primitive and unconfined recreation because of its shape and flat topography.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Ash Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-641
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 7,680 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The surface ownership of the unit is entirely public land administered by the BLM.

There are some oil and gas leases in the unit.

There are four miles of vehicular ways in the unit. There are three reservoirs and five miles of fences which cross the unit four times. An underground waterline .75 miles long is in the south end.

The unit contains about twelve miles of a precipitous drop of 100' to 300' running along its length. Steep coulees drop through this formation to the west. Drainage to the east is much more gentle and eventually flows into the Big Dry Arm of Fort Peck Reservoir. The area is grassland with some brush in the coulees.

The area has a .75-mile average width for its fourteen mile length. The unit does not meet the outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation criterion.

UNIT DECISION

The area will not be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Big Wild Horse Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-672
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 11,050 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The entire area, except for 800 acres in the southeast, is leased for oil and gas.

There are 15 miles of vehicular ways evenly spread over the unit, 7 reservoirs, 8 miles of fences, 3 wells and 2 drill holes, and approximately 6 miles of overhead single pole powerlines for water well pumps. There are also 6.5 miles of roads.

Big Wild Horse Creek runs from east to west and drains most of the southern portion of the unit. Southerly flowing tributary coulees of Spring Creek drain the remainder of the southern portion. Several unnamed tributaries of Big Dry Creek run north out of the northern half of the unit. The divide south of Big Wild Horse Creek has some points 2900' in elevation. The low elevation of the unit is 2400' on the north boundary of the unit. The divides north and south of Big Wild Horse Creek are mildly broken and display some colorful strata. However, most of the unit is rolling hills covered with grasses.

Because of the extensive land improvements within this area it does not meet the naturalness criterion.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will not be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Lang's Fork
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-678
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 6,872 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are two miles of vehicular ways in the unit. There are ten reservoirs and 10 miles of new ten-strand fence. Two road systems "deadend" into the unit. The one from the west is 2.5 miles long and is access to a reservoir (T. 17 N., R. 39 E., Sec. 23) and 2 miles of fence. The east road provides access to 6 reservoirs and 2 miles of fence.

General Vegetative and Topographic Features: The unit consists of gentle to moderately rolling terrain with very few exposed formations. The major feature of the unit is a north-south running divide between Lone Tree Creek on the west and Lang's Creek on the east. The elevation ranges from 2900' along the ridge to 2750' along the east, west and north boundaries. The vegetation is exclusively grassland.

Due to the cumulative effect of the range developments (including powerlines), the unit does not meet the naturalness criterion.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will be dropped from further inventory.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: Cottonwood Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-688
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 4,900 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are 320 acres of private subsurface ownership.

There is a 20' telephone right-of-way along 1.5 miles of the eastern boundary.

The entire unit, with the exception of T. 13 N., R. 52 E., W¹/₂, is leased for oil and gas.

There are 3 miles of vehicular ways in the western portion of the unit. There are 4 miles of fencing, one reservoir, and two wells.

Human activity includes grazing development, maintenance and recreation.

The unit contains three miles of Cottonwood Creek and its confluence with the Yellowstone River. One and one-half miles of shoreline of the Yellowstone River form the southeastern boundary. The bottom of Cottonwood Creek is quite flat and in some cases .25 miles wide. The tributaries of the creek are short and steep. The two ridges forming the Cotton Creek drainage are quite rugged, almost broken. The dominant species are grasses and forbs and include blue grama, threadleaf sedge, bluebunch wheatgrass, and western wheat. There are also very scattered ponderosa pine, rocky mountain red cedar, and some cottonwood at the confluence of the Yellowstone River and Cottonwood Creek.

The size of the unit is less than 5,000 acres. The unit is not contiguous to the lands of any other federal agency nor did it receive any public support for intensive inventory.

UNIT DECISION

The area will not be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: O'Fallon Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-693
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 6,975 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Ownership of the unit is entirely public land administered by the BLM.

There is .7 miles of powerline easement in T. 10 N., R. 54 E., Sec. 9 and .5 miles in Sec. 11. There is a 40 acre free use permit in T. 10 N., R. 54 E., Sec. 3 and 10.

There are 2.5 miles of vehicular trails, 2.5 miles of fence, 3 reservoirs and three wells in the unit. There are 5 miles of underground waterpipe in the western part of the unit. There are 2.5 miles of the Milwaukee railroad road bed which divides the unit into a 5000-acre (approximately) portion on the west and a 2000-acre (approximately) unit on the east.

There are 1,340 acres of reseeding which is concentrated in the western part of the unit.

O'Fallon Creek, a tributary of the Yellowstone River, flows north-northwesterly through the unit. Unnamed intermittent tributaries drain the portion west of the railroad. The majority of this unit is of moderately rolling terrain. The remainder of the unit, including the Pine Creek drainage, which is a tributary of O'Fallon Creek, is relatively flat. Three of the four private lands surrounded by the unit are cultivated. The unit is exclusively grassland.

The presence of the railroad, the amount and evidence of seeding, and the number, size and distribution of private lands surrounded by the public land of the unit is sufficient to warrant not intensively inventorying the unit.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: O'Fallon - Cabin
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-694
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 9,400 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is .5 miles of underground telephone line in T. 11 N., R. 54 E., Sec. 8. There is a 40-acre easement in T. 11 N., R. 54 E., Sec. 9.

Approximately 5,000 acres of oil and gas leasing.

There are 10 miles of vehicular ways and 11 miles of fence within the unit. Thirteen reservoirs are within and five reservoirs are partially within the unit. There are 3 wells within the unit.

Five reseedsings totalling 510 acres occur in the unit.

Vegetative and Topographic Features: The unit is drained to the southwest by many intermittent creeks that are tributaries of O'Fallon Creek. The unit contains portions of the divide between O'Fallon Creek and Cabin Creek to the northeast. The topography is moderately rolling. It is generally grassland.

Due to the cumulative effect of the range developments and vegetative manipulation, the unit does not meet the naturalness criterion.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will not be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Tenmile Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-024-695
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 5,000 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is a 40-acre special land use permit in T. 10 N., R. 52 E., Sec. 18.

There are three miles of vehicular ways, four miles of fencing, two wells, two reservoirs, and .4 miles of underground waterline within the unit.

Approximately 120 acres within T. 10 N., R. 52 E., Sec. 18, have been seeded.

Vegetative and Topographic Features: The drainage pattern is from east to west with the major creek, Tenmile Creek, bisecting the unit. There is broken physiography south of Tenmile Creek rising to 2800'. Tenmile Creek drops from 2500' on the east boundary to 2400' on the west. North of Tenmile Creek the physiography moderates until it is flat in the northwest corner. There are cottonwoods in the bottom of Tenmile Creek, but generally the unit is covered with grasses and forbs.

Public comment suggested that a road existed in the unit. This was field investigated and verified. The unit is fragmented into two pieces, each of which is less than 5,000 acres in size. The unit no longer meets the size criterion.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will not be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Powderville
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-706
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 6,360 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The entire unit is leased for oil and gas.
The unit contains seven miles of vehicular ways. There are two reservoirs, two water wells and three miles of fences in the unit.

Activities associated with grazing, range development, maintenance and hunting occur in the unit.

The unit is within two tributary drainages (Crow and Hay Creeks) of Powder River. Ninety percent of the unit is in Crow Creek drainage. The drainage pattern is to the northwest. Elevations vary from 3,100' on the ridge west and east of Crow Creek to 2,900' in the Crow Creek bottom. The dominant vegetation of the unit is grassland.

Public comments were received early in the public comment period suggesting that this unit contained roads. During field investigation in response to this comment it was determined and documented that the unit was fragmented into 4 pieces. This unit no longer meets the 5,000 acre size criteria or other size criteria.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Pocochedie Creek
Inventory Unit No. MT-027-707
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 10,520 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are 10 miles of road, 5 miles of fence, 3 wells and 10 reservoirs, with one being 15 acres and the rest 2 acres or less.

Grazing, range development, and hunting occur in the unit.

The unit sits between Crow Creek and Timber Creek, both of which flow northwest to the Powder River which is out of the unit. Drainages off the west side of the unit drain into Crow Creek, while other drainages trend northeastward to Timber Creek. Vegetation is predominantly grasses and sagebrush.

Public comments were received early in the public comment period suggesting that this unit contained roads. During field investigation in response to this comment it was determined and documented that the unit was fragmented into 6 pieces. This unit no longer meets the 5,000 acre size criteria or other size criteria.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name: Bell Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-713
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 5,862 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is one section (640 acres) of private land within the unit, completely surrounded by public land.

There is a 10' easement for an underground telephone. The route of the easement is parallel to that of the vehicular way that traverses the unit.

All of the unit within T. 7 S., R. 53 E., is leased for oil and gas.

There are 4 miles of vehicular ways, 5 miles of fence, 1 reservoir and 2 wells.

Grazing permits cover the entire unit.

Activities associated with grazing, range development, maintenance and hunting occur on this unit.

The unit contains 4 miles of a ridge between Pine Creek and Bell Creek.

Pine Creek and many small tributary coulees drain off to the Northwest and into the Powder River (outside this unit). The ridge is over 3,500 feet in elevation with the lowest elevation being about 3,200'. Ponderosa pine stands covering about 3 percent of the unit grow in some of the side coulees off Pine Creek. Much of the rest of the unit is dominated by grasses.

Public comments were received early in the public comment period suggesting that this unit contained roads. During field investigation in response to this comment it was determined and documented that the unit was fragmented into 3 pieces. This unit no longer meets the 5,000 acre size criteria or other size criteria.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Thompson Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-720
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 17,320 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are about 1900 acres of oil and gas leases in the extreme northern part of the unit.

There are 5 claims for unpatented, operating bentonite mines covering over 2,880 acres. These claims are in the center of the area.

There are 30 miles of vehicular ways, 8 miles of fence and 32 reservoirs. There are active bentonite mines with claims covering almost 3,000 acres. There are 3 water spreader projects and there is a 3-mile road from the southern boundary to the bentonite claim.

A ridge running east-west divides the unit. Drainages off the south side flow toward Thompson Creek (out of unit). Drainages off the north slopes of the ridge flow to Willow Creek (out of the unit). Elevations of this badlands-type terrain vary from 3720' to 3470'. Grasses and sagebrush cover the unit.

Due to the level of development, including the Bentonite mine, the unit does not meet the naturalness criterion.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: South Butte Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-724
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 5,760 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is a private inholding of 400 acres.

This unit contains 31 reservoirs, with the largest covering 68 acres, one covering 8 acres, a few others from 1-6 acres and the remaining covering under 1 acre each. There are 11 miles of fence and 12 miles of vehicle ways.

There are several prominent hills of about 150' higher than the surrounding gentle topography. North Butte Creek and South Butte Creek flow east through the northern section of this unit to empty into the Little Missouri River (just outside the unit). Drainages from the prominent hills trend southeast to the Little Missouri River. Vegetation is predominantly grasses and sagebrush.

Because of the many land improvements in the area, the unit does not meet the wilderness naturalness criterion.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will not be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Horse Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-726
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 5,420 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The entire unit is leased for oil and gas.

There are three miles of vehicular ways within the unit. There are five reservoirs, seven miles of fences, and two windmills with wells.

Activities associated with grazing, range development, maintenance and hunting occur on the unit.

The unit encompasses the ridge west of the South Fork of Horse Creek. Drainages flow west-northwesterly into the Powder River and northeasterly into the South Fork of Horse Creek. Elevations range from 3,275' along the ridge to 2,950' along the west side of the unit. The unit is grassland.

Public comments were received early in the public comment period suggesting that this unit contained roads. During field investigation in response to this comment it was determined and documented that the unit was fragmented into 3 pieces. This unit no longer meets the 5,000 acre size criteria or other size criteria.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): Hay Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-727
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 5,180 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The entire unit is leased for oil and gas.

There are five miles of vehicular ways in the unit. There are six reservoirs, one of six acres, two of four acres, and the remainder smaller within the unit. Two miles of fence divides the unit into three pastures.

The unit is used primarily for grazing and some hunting.

The area is drained by a number of small tributaries flowing northwesterly into Powder River. The only such tributary named in Horse Creek, which flows through the southern portion of the unit. The elevation ranges from 3,225' along some of the ridges between those tributaries to 2,950' where they leave the unit. The unit is grassland.

Public comments were received early in the public comment period suggesting that this unit contained roads. During field investigation in response to this comment it was determined and documented that the unit was fragmented into 3 pieces. This unit no longer meets the 5,000 acre size criteria or other size criteria.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Alkali Flats
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-731
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 6,850 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Approximately 5,000 acres in the unit is leased for oil and gas.

There are three miles of vehicular ways, eleven reservoirs and 11 miles of fences in the unit. There are also 1500 acres of water spreaders about four feet high just south of Lone Tree Creek.

There are a series of six contour furrowing plots.

Lone Tree Creek passes through the center of the area for three miles from west to east. The divide to the north has elevations of 3,400 feet. North of the divide is the Buffalo Creek drainage. The unit has gentle topography along the Lone Tree Creek bottom, and a short narrow low ridge as its north divide. The unit is exclusively grassland.

Due to the cumulative effect of the improvements on the unit, it does not meet the naturalness criterion.

UNIT DECISION

The unit will not be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available) King Mountain Contiguity
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-737
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 1,185 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The two units total 1,185 acres in size.

Approximately 750 acres of the two units are under coal exploration.

There is .5 mile of vehicular way in the northern parcel. There is .2 mile of fence in the northeast corner of the northern unit. There is a reservoir in the western portion of the southern unit. There is a well in the southeast corner of the southern unit.

Activities associated with grazing, range improvement, maintenance and hunting occur on the unit.

The northern unit (T. 4 S., R. 22 E., Sec. 20) contains a mile of Dry Creek and another tributary (unnamed) of the Tongue River. The drainage pattern is to the northwest. The elevations range from 3,250' along the east and the south boundaries to 3,070' in the northwest. Approximately 10 percent of the unit has stands of ponderosa pine. The remainder is grassland.

The drainage of the southern unit is to the southwest via several tributaries of O'Dell Creek, which is a tributary of the Tongue River. Elevations range from 3,680' in the northeast to 3,160' in the alluvial bottom of O'Dell Creek in the southwest. The unit is grassland.

The units are contiguous to a United States Forest Service BARE II unit (King Mountain #1-372). Unit #1-372 was recommended for non-wilderness by the Forest Service and that decision has not been modified within the Executive Branch. Therefore, the rationale for intensive inventory of BLM Unit #737 no longer exists.

UNIT DECISION

The area will not be intensively inventoried.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: North Cottonwood
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-738
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 5,890 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The surface ownership of the unit is public land administered by the BLM. There are 1,280 acres of private land, surrounded by public lands.

There are oil and gas leases on the western two-thirds of the unit.

There are 2 miles of fence, 1 reservoir of 1 acre size, and 9 miles of vehicular ways.

Two ridges trend southeast-northwest through the unit with the highest elevation, 3700', being on the ridge along the northeast boundary. Cottonwood Creek drains most of the unit as it flows southeastward. The low elevation of 3480' occurs along Cottonwood Creek. Grasses and sagebrush cover the unit with many cottonwoods along the drainages.

Due to the level of developments, the unit does not meet the naturalness criterion.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area/Island Name (if available): North Butte Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-027-739
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 13,060 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There are 5 miles of fence, 22 miles of vehicular ways and 11 reservoirs, all being 3 acres or smaller.

Grazing permits cover the entire unit.

Grazing, range development, maintenance and hunting occur in the unit.

A few ridges trend northwest-southeast with several creeks draining between the ridges. The highest ridge is along the southwest boundary of the unit and reaches an elevation of up to 3,800'. North and South Butte Creeks drain all but the north portion of the unit and flow southeast into the Little Missouri River. The low elevation of the unit is in the east part of the unit at 3,370'. Vegetation is grass and sagebrush with many cottonwoods along the drainages.

Public comments were received early in the public comment period suggesting that this unit contained roads. During field investigation in response to this comment it was determined and documented that the unit was fragmented into 10 pieces. This unit no longer meets the 5,000 acre size criteria or other size criteria.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Alkali Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-028-801
State: South Dakota
District: Miles City
Size: 5,760 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit contains approximately 20 reservoirs and 11 miles of fence.

The vegetation in the unit is predominantly grass or shrub-grasslands with some scattered hardwoods along the Alkali Creek bottoms.

The topography contains low rolling hills with little vertical relief. The major feature is Alkali Creek. This is an intermittent stream which flows from west to east through the center of the unit.

The high density of reservoir and fence developments dominate the landscape because there is insufficient topographic relief or vegetation to screen them from view.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: Fourmile Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-028-802
State: South Dakota
District: Miles City
Size: 11,540 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit contains a 160 acre tract of privately owned surface and subsurface. The remainder is federally owned.

The public lands are leased for livestock grazing.

The unit contains approximately 28 reservoirs, 4 exclosures, and 22 miles of fence.

The area contains approximately 300 acres of contour furrowing.

The vegetation is predominantly grass or shrub-grasslands.

The topography is generally a flat to gently rolling plains dissected in an east-west direction by intermittent tributaries of Battle Creek.

The high density of fences and reservoirs dominate the landscape because of insufficient topographic relief or vegetation to screen them from view.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: West Battle Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-028-803
State: South Dakota
District: Miles City
Size: 14,400 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The unit contains 640 acres of privately owned, surface and subsurface. The remainder is federally owned.

The entire unit is leased for livestock grazing.

The unit contains approximately 25 stockwater reservoirs and 20 miles of fences.

Approximately 400 acres have been contour furrowed.

The vegetation is predominantly grass or shrub-grassland.

The topography is flat to gently rolling with little vertical relief. The major topographic feature is a low ridge separating the Battle Creek and Porcupine Creek drainages.

The high density of range improvements combined with a lack of vegetation or topographic screening creates an unnatural or trammelled appearance.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: East Battle Creek
Inventory Unit No.: MT-028-804
State: South Dakota
District: Miles City
Size: 7,520 acres, public lands

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

There is an easement for a reservoir and diversion dikes in Section 2, 3 and 10; T. 12 N., R. 3 E.; B.H.M.

The entire unit is leased for livestock grazing.

The area contains approximately 19 reservoirs, 2 exclosures, and 15 3/4 miles of fence.

There is approximately 250 acres of contour furrowing.

The vegetation is predominantly grass or shrub-grasslands.

The topography consists of general flat to gently rolling plains dissected by intermittent tributaries of Battle Creek. There is no single outstanding topographic feature.

The high density of reservoir and fence developments dominate the landscape because there is insufficient vegetative or topographic relief to screen them from view.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: South Dakota Resource Area
Inventory Unit No.: MT-028-805
State: South Dakota
District: Miles City
Size: 240,000 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The majority of the lands are leased for livestock grazing. An unknown number of oil and gas leases exist in the area.

An unknown number of mining claims have been filed in the unit.

Vegetation types include grasslands, shrub-grasslands, pine-woodlands, and ponderosa pine forests.

Topographic features range from flat to gently rolling plains to steep, rugged mountains.

The generally small size of the individual tracts combined with existing developments eliminates wilderness values.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Gumbo Creek
Inventory Unit Number: MT-030-901
State: North Dakota
District: Dickinson
Size: 10,020 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Approximately 600 acres of the unit is in Montana.

Most of the unit is leased for oil and gas.

There are 9 reservoirs, three to five acres in size. Nine miles of vehicular trails are concentrated in the southern portion of the unit. They interconnect at least 4 oil wells also concentrated in the southern portion of the unit.

The drainage pattern in the southern portion is to the east. Gumbo Creek and several unnamed creeks, mostly intermittent, flow out of the unit and into the Little Missouri. The coulees in the south create moderately dissected topography. There is a transition north of the Gumbo Creek drainage into moderately rolling topography. This portion of the unit is drained to the northwest by unnamed intermittent tributaries of Beaver Creek. The area is exclusively grassland.

The existence of the 4 oil wells and associated equipment has sufficient impact on the naturalness of the unit to preclude further study.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Name: Unnamed
Inventory Unit Number: MT-030-902
State: North Dakota
District: Dickinson
Size: 5,320 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Approximately 300 acres of the unit is in Montana.

Most of the unit is leased for oil and gas.

There are 3 reservoirs, 3 miles of vehicular way and 3 oil wells.

The unit encompasses one unnamed intermittent tributary of the Little Missouri River. A small portion of the unit in the north is part of Gumbo Creek drainage and at the south is in an unnamed drainage. The topography is moderately rough characterized by many coulees. The area is exclusively grassland.

The existence of 2 oil wells and associated equipment has sufficient impact on the naturalness of the unit to preclude further study.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Area Name: North Dakota - small blocks
Inventory Unit No.: MT-030-903
State: North Dakota
District: Dickinson
Size: 52,600 acres, public land

UNIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Improvements exist in the unit and consist of: range improvements (i.e., reservoirs, vehicular ways, fences, etc.), oil wells.

Vegetation types include grasslands, shrub-grasslands, and some scattered trees.

Topographic features range from flat to gently rolling plains to steep rugged mountains.

The area obviously and clearly does not have potential for wilderness. None of the units are larger than 4,500 acres of roadless public land. None appear to meet the criteria to warrant further wilderness study.

UNIT DECISION

The area will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Name: Scattered Tracts
Inventory Nos.: MT-024-600, 601, 730, 751
State: Montana
District: Miles City
Size: 1,906,873 acres

UNIT ANALYSIS AND DECISION

The area considered in the situation evaluations referenced above pertains to scattered tracts of public land, less than 5,000 acres per tract. No public comments were received to support further wilderness consideration. These tracts, therefore, are dropped from wilderness consideration.

Butte District

Inventory Unit Maps

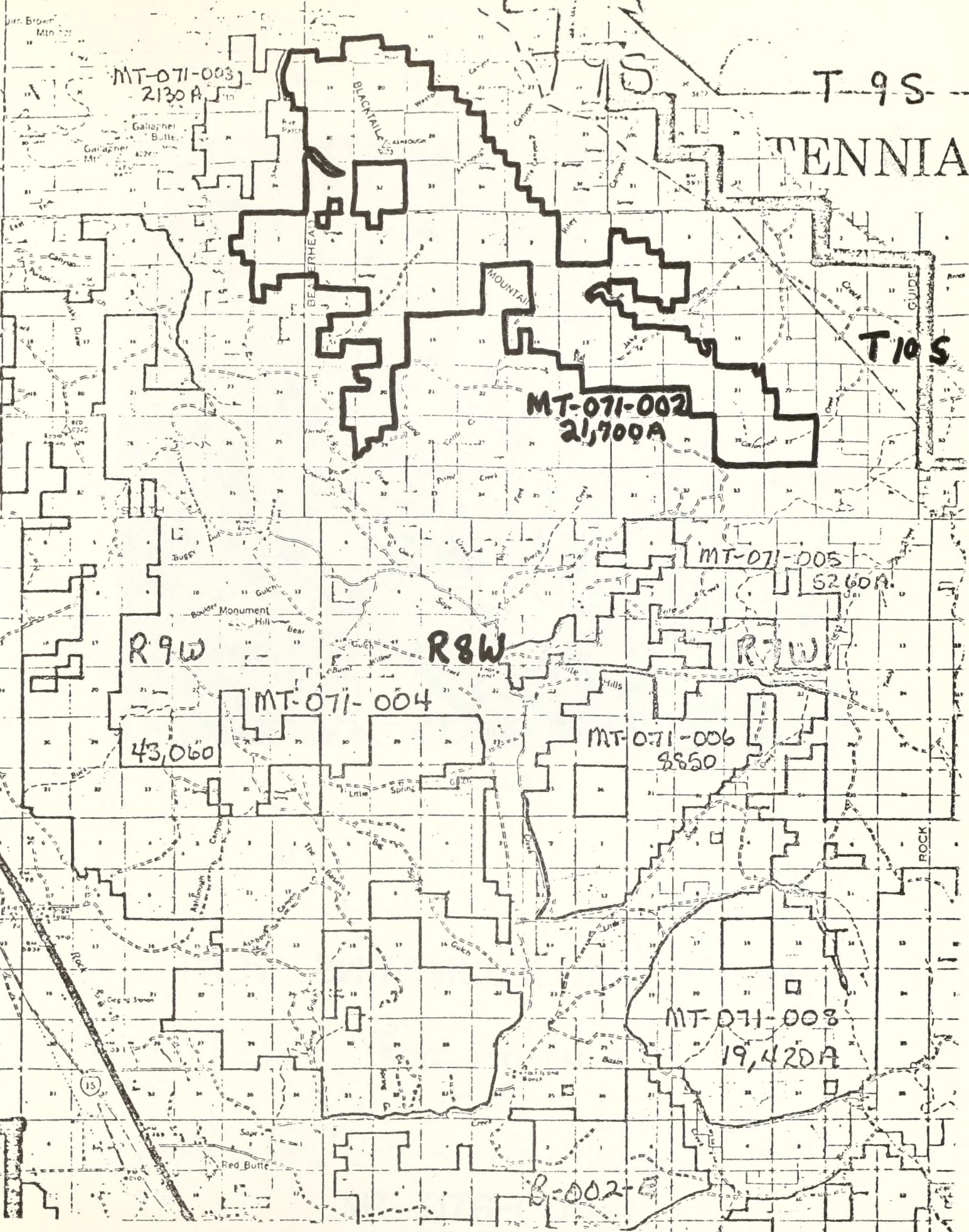
The maps in this section are arranged in numerical order. Some inventory units were combined on a single map where it was convenient to do so.

T5S

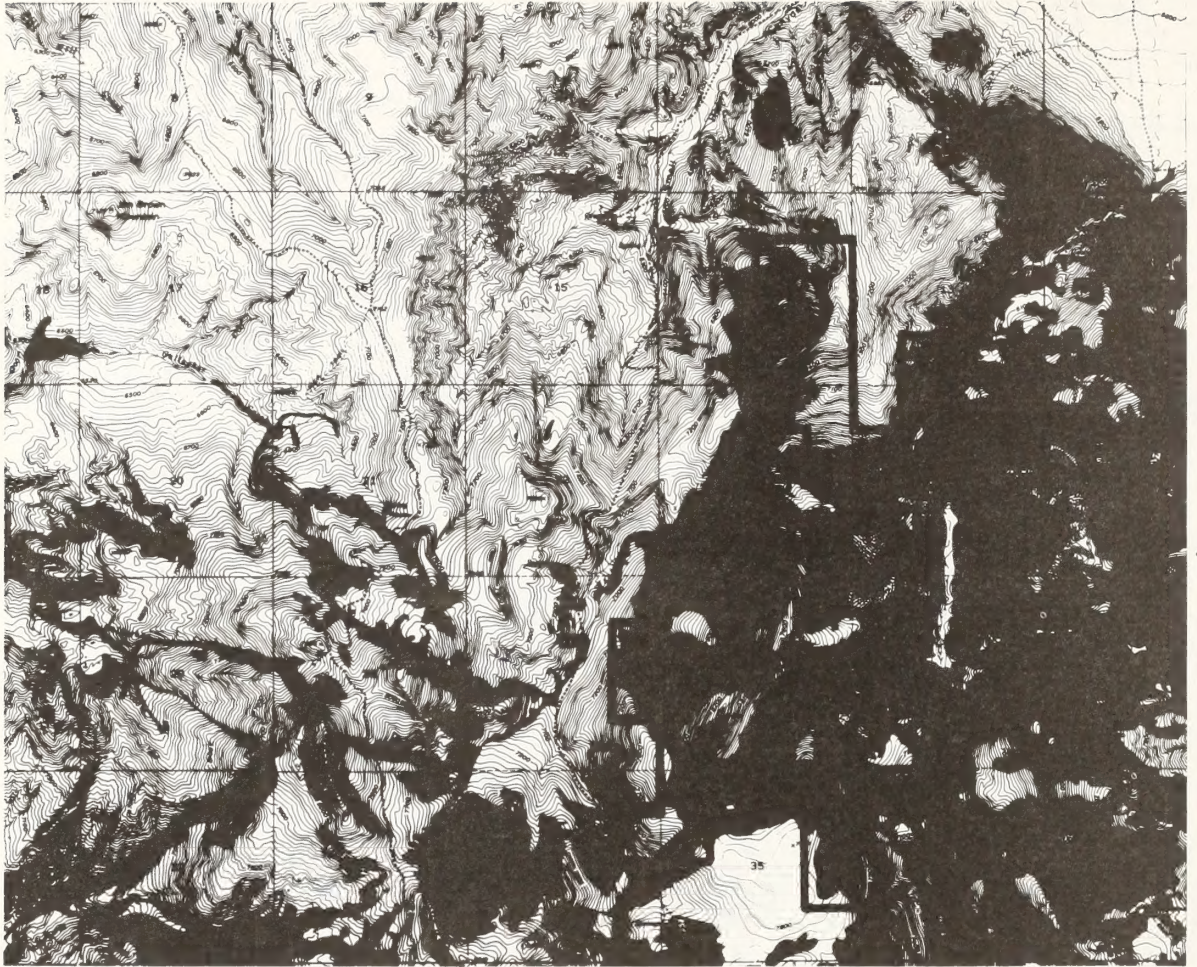
T6S

T7S

MT-076-001



R9W



T9S

BLACKTAIL MOUNTAINS WEST

MT-076-003

TENNIA

MT-971-005
JL 5260A

T115

MT-071-004

43,060

MT-071-006
8850

T 12 S

R 8 W

R7W

MT-071-008
19,420A

B-000-E

R5W

TIOS

TIIS

TI2S

EAST FORK BLACKTAIL DEER CREEK

MT-076-007

5260A.

8850

19,420A

8350 A

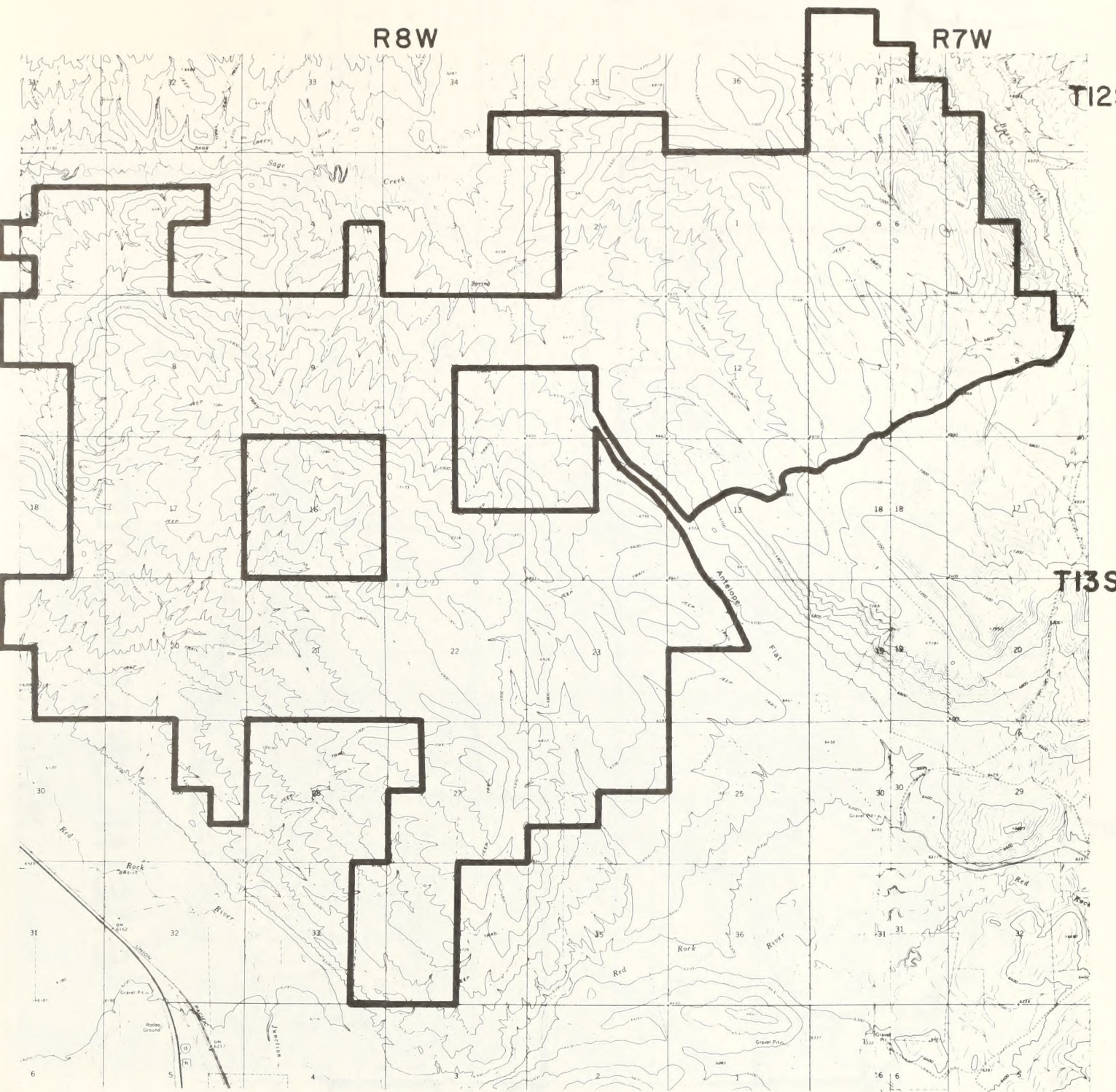
R7 W

R L W

5560 A

MT-071-013

B-208-E netop
7378

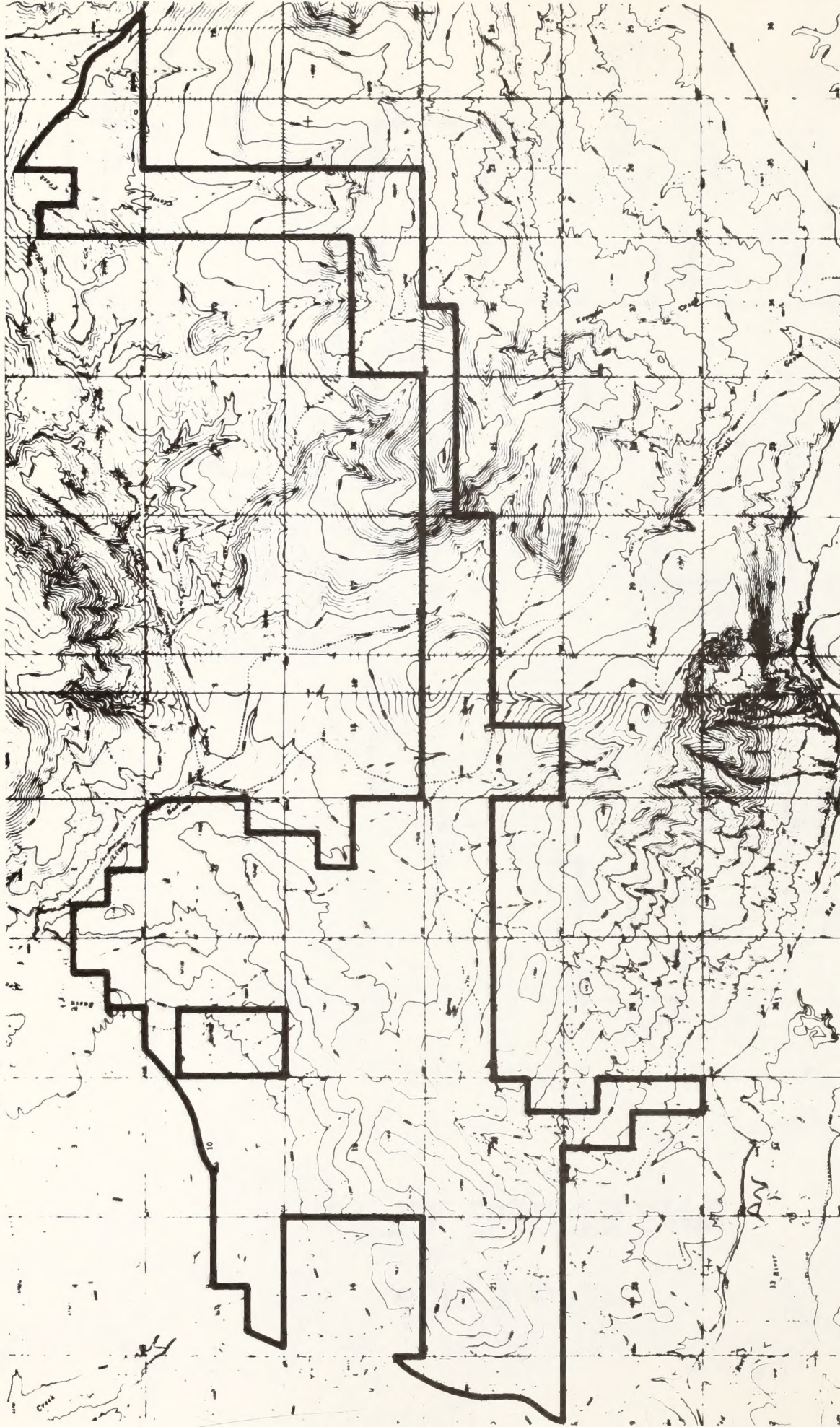


ANTELOPE FLAT

MT-076-009

R7W

R6W



BASIN CREEK SOUTH

MT-076-010

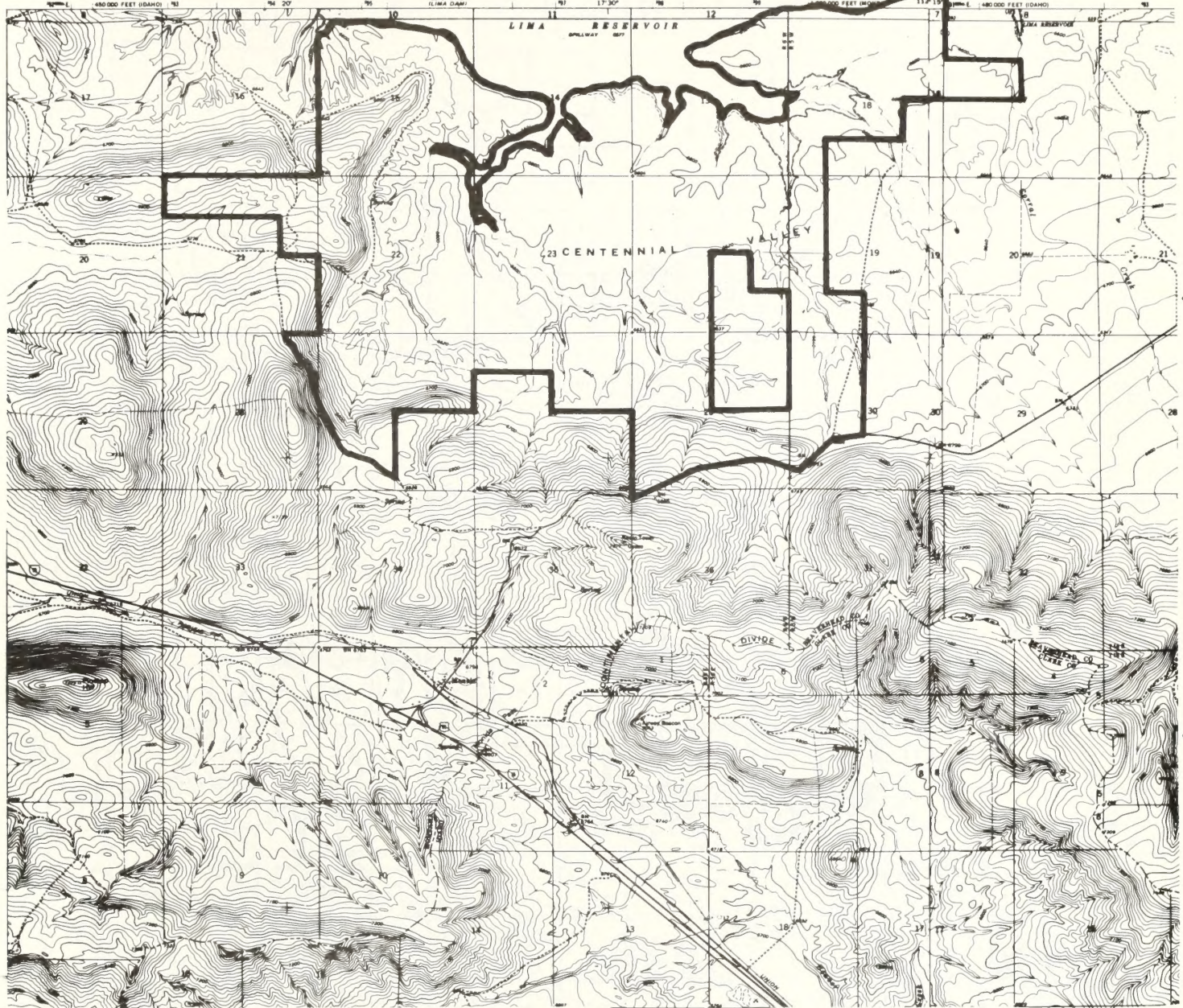
R6W

R5W

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

MONIDA QUADRANGLE
MONTANA-IDAHO
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

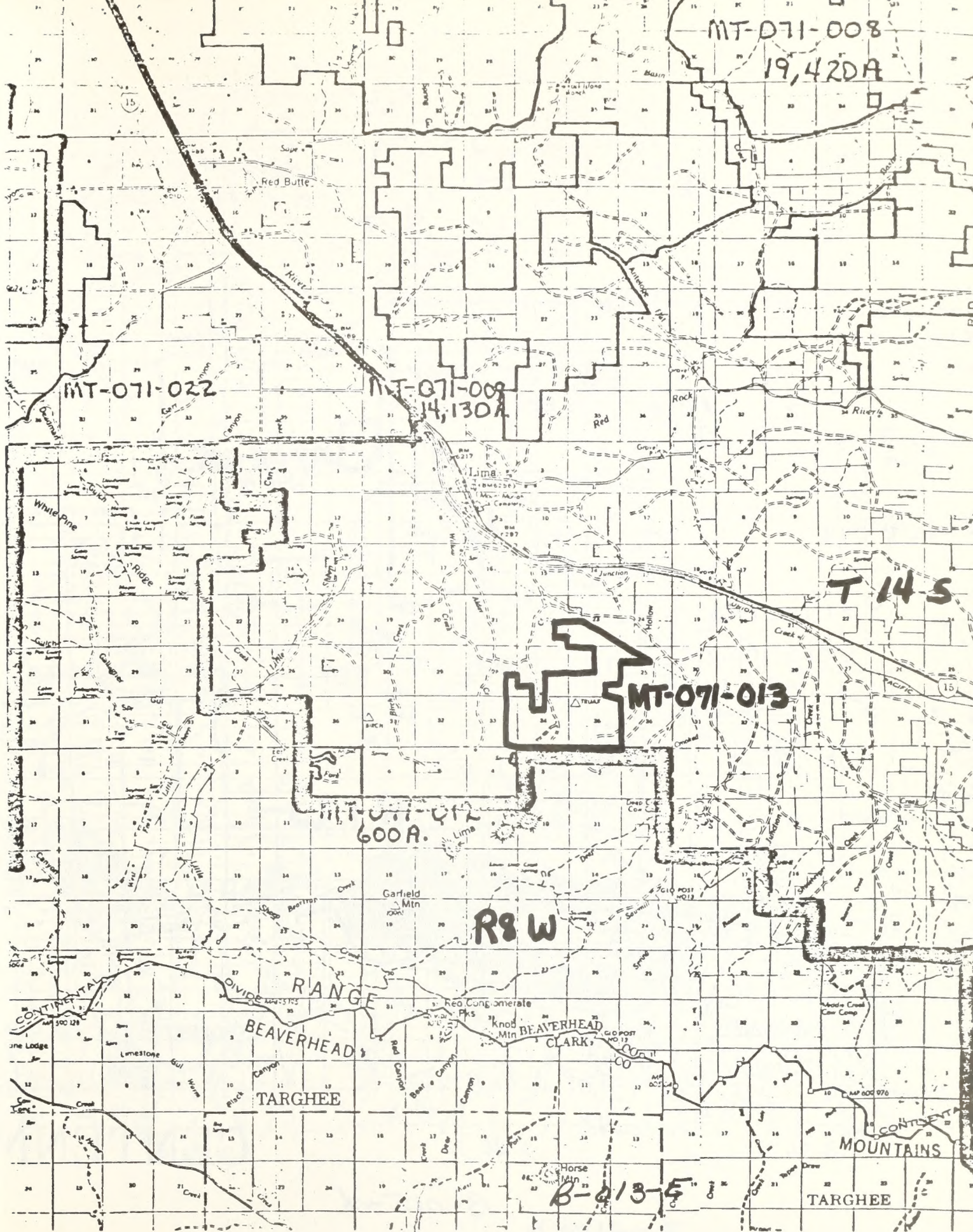


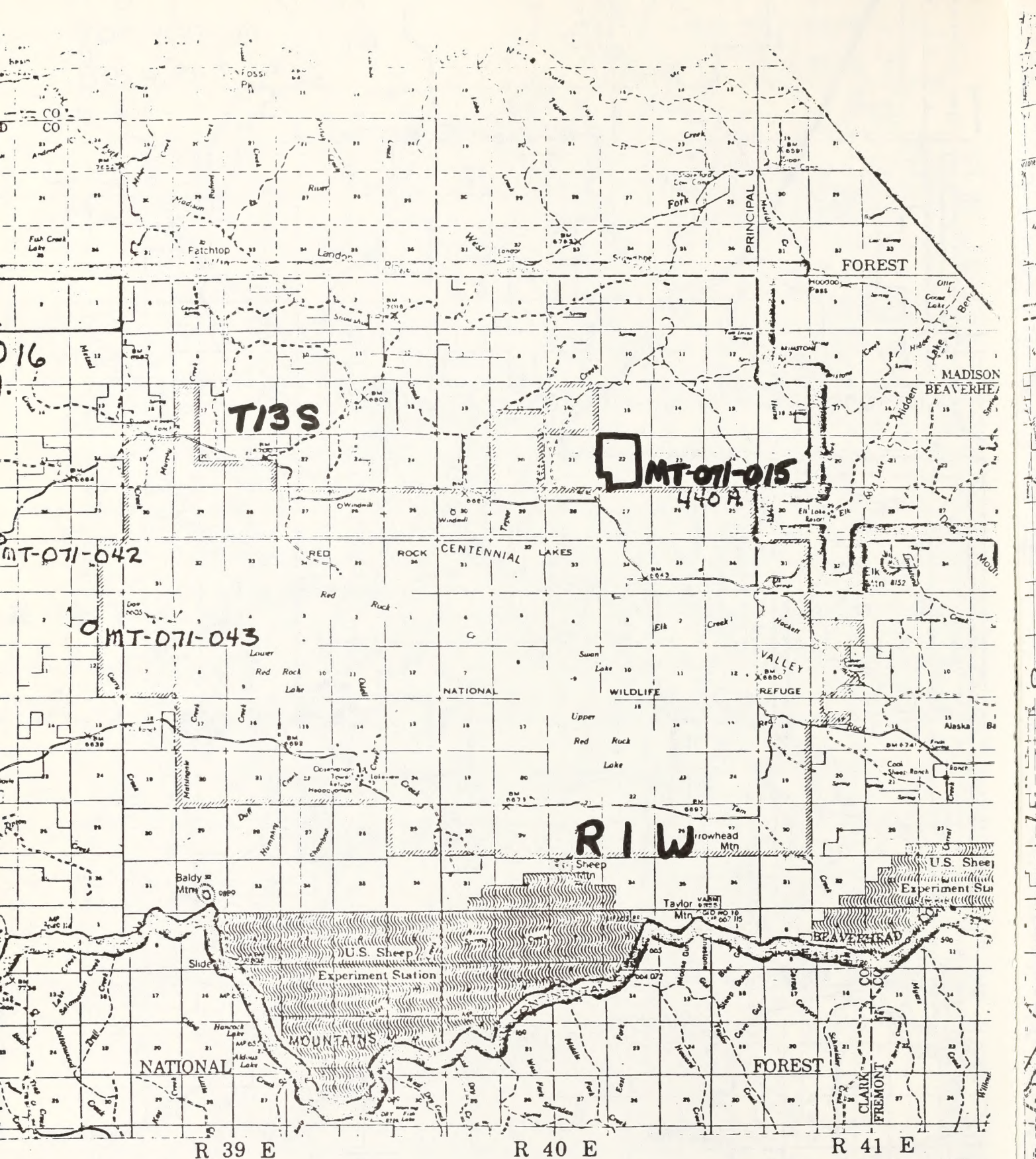
T14S

T15S

LIMA RESERVOIR

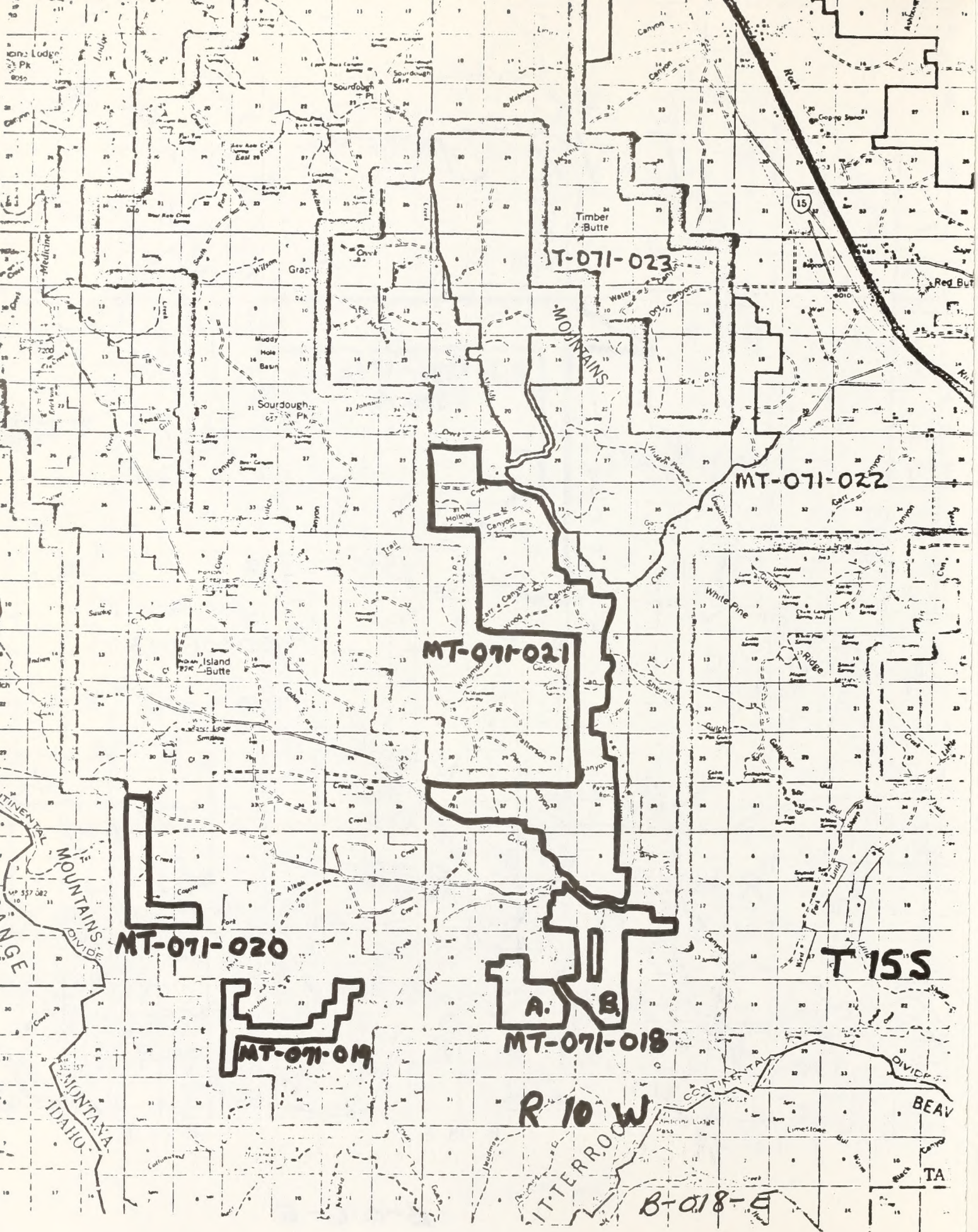
MT-076-011





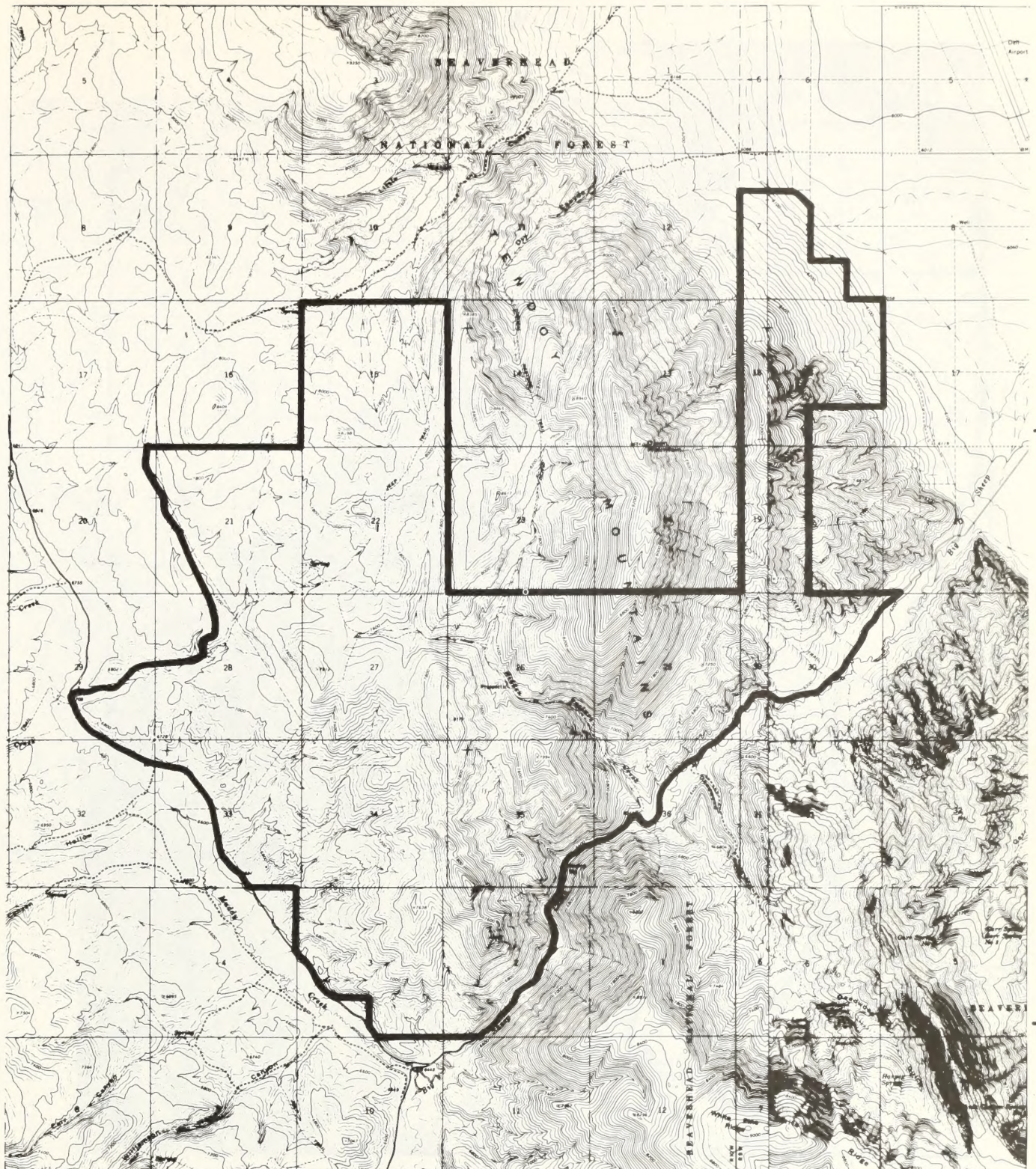
B-015-d

B-016-E



RIOW

R9W

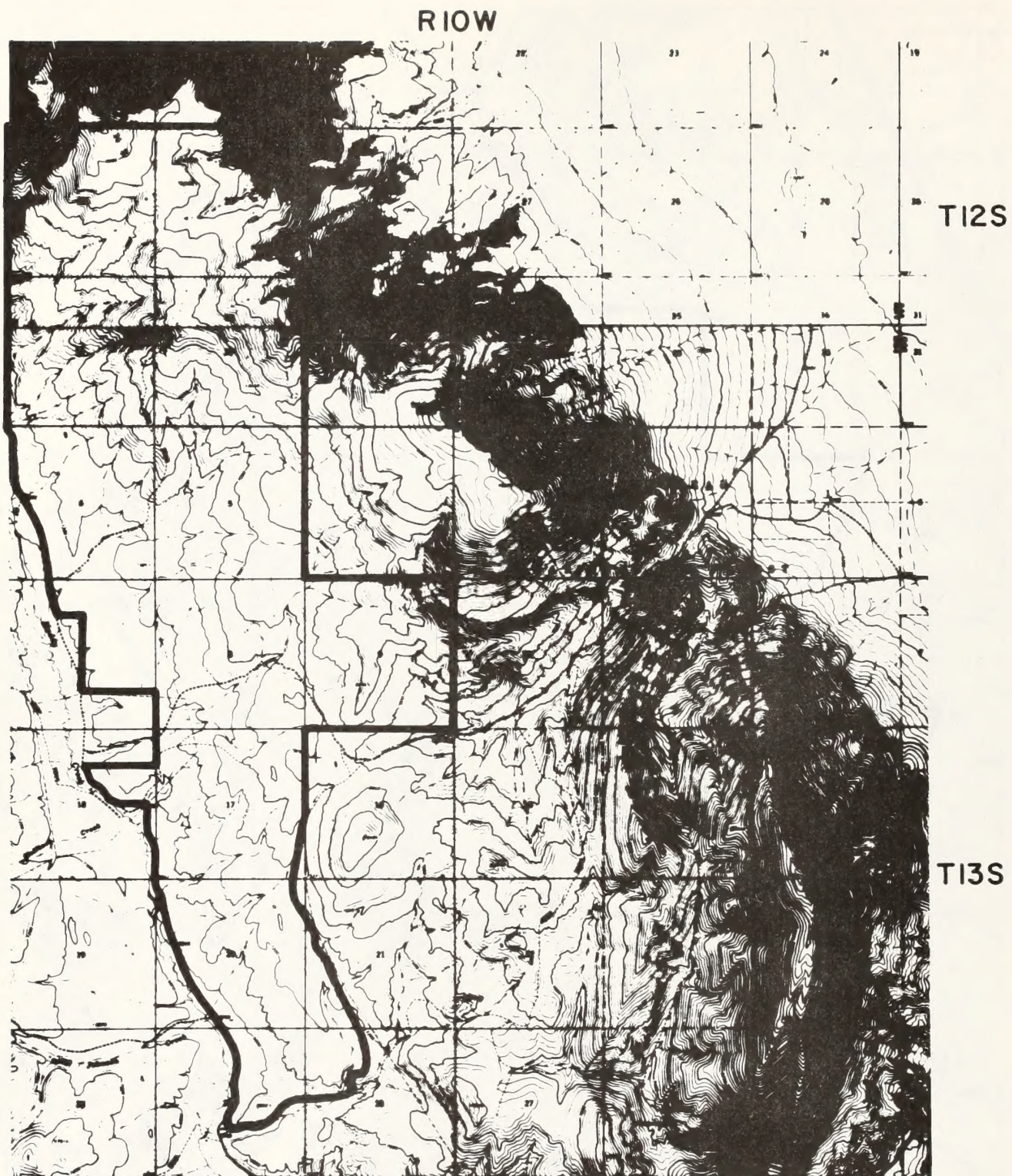


T13

T14

HIDDEN PASTURE CREEK

MT-076-022

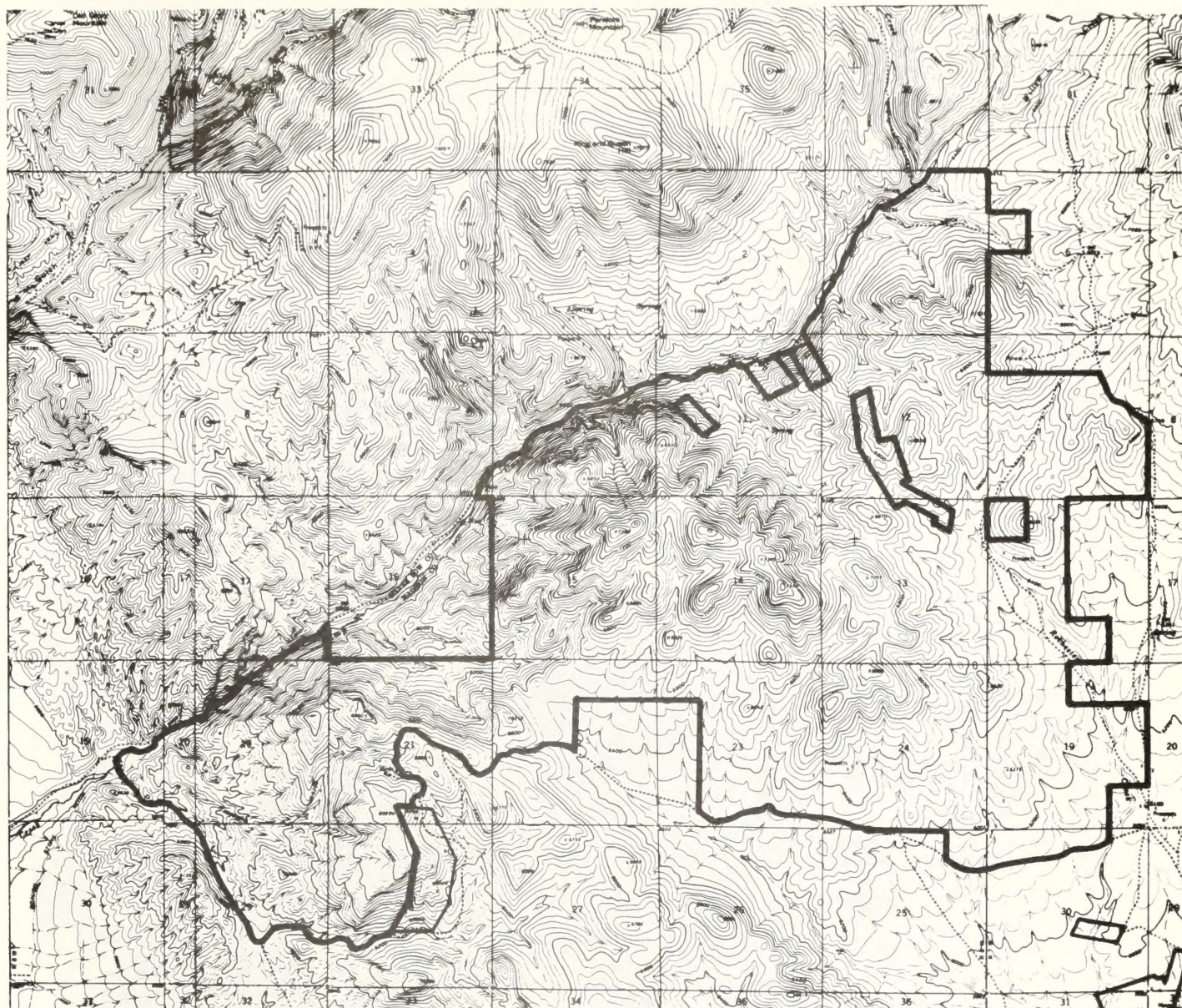


EAST MUDDY CREEK

MT-076-023

R 8W

R 7W



CAMP CREEK SOUTH

MT-076-024

R8W

T3S

T4S

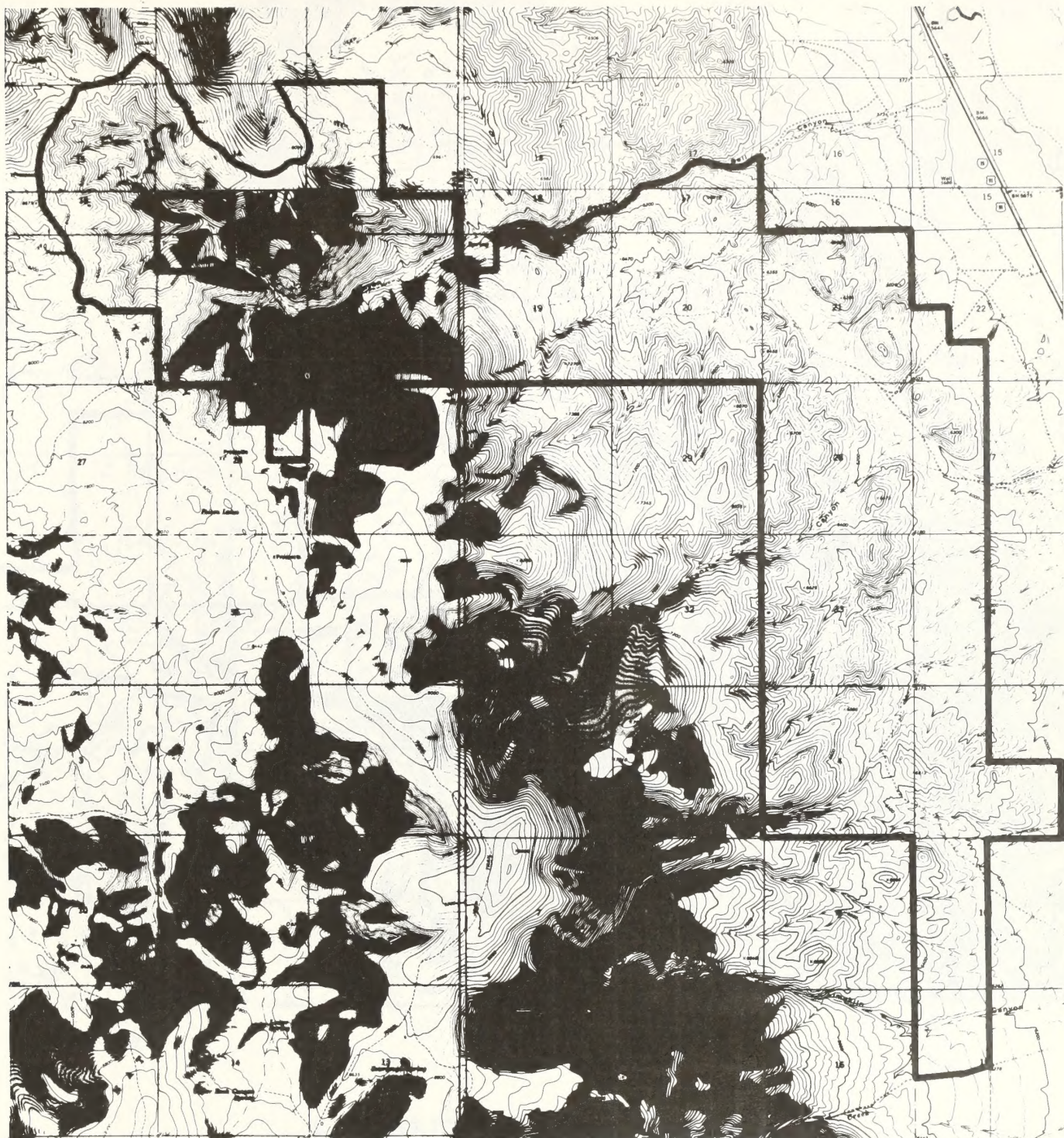
T5S

SANDY HOLLOW

MT-076-025

RIIW

RIOW

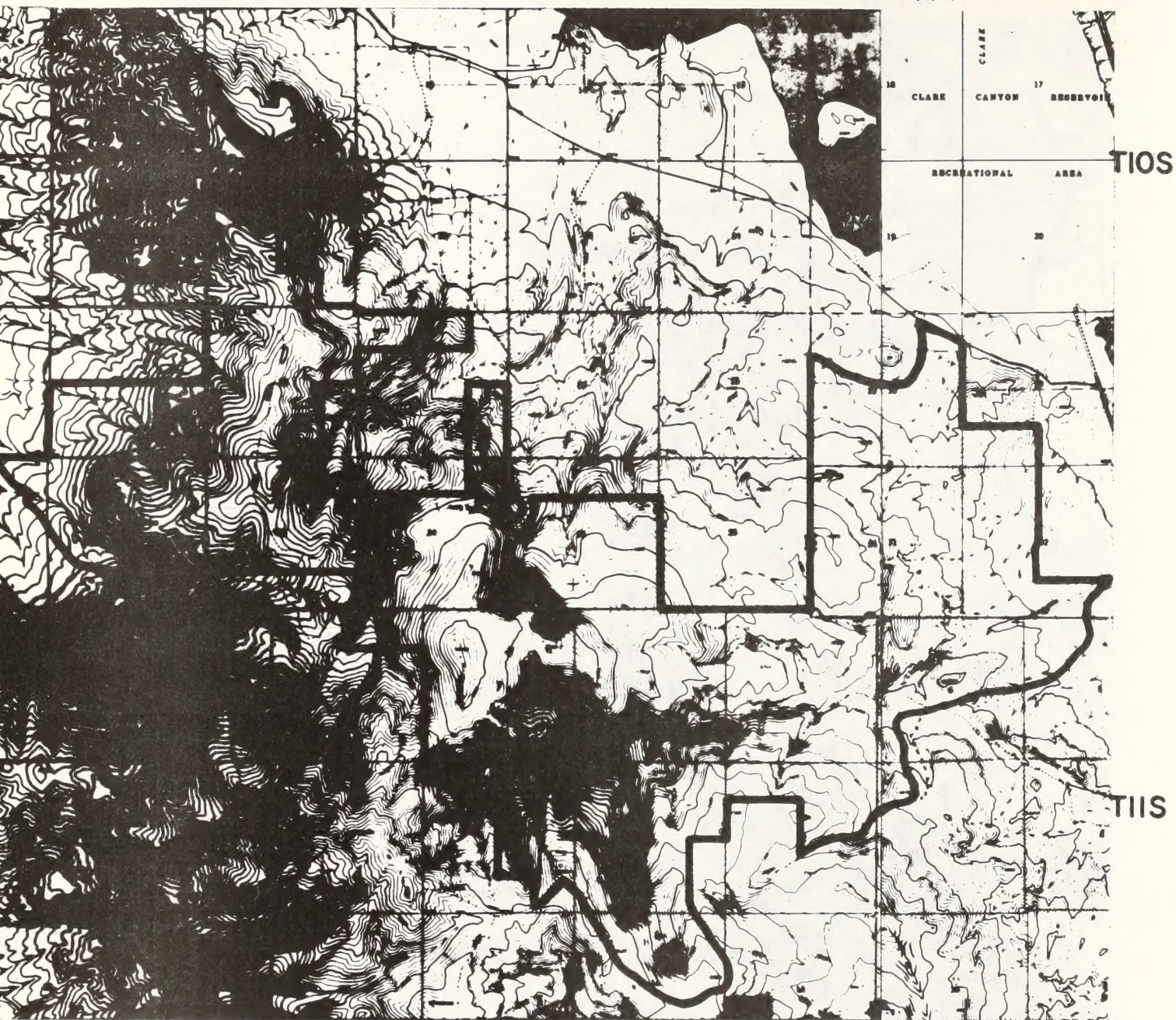


BELL CANYON

MT-076-026

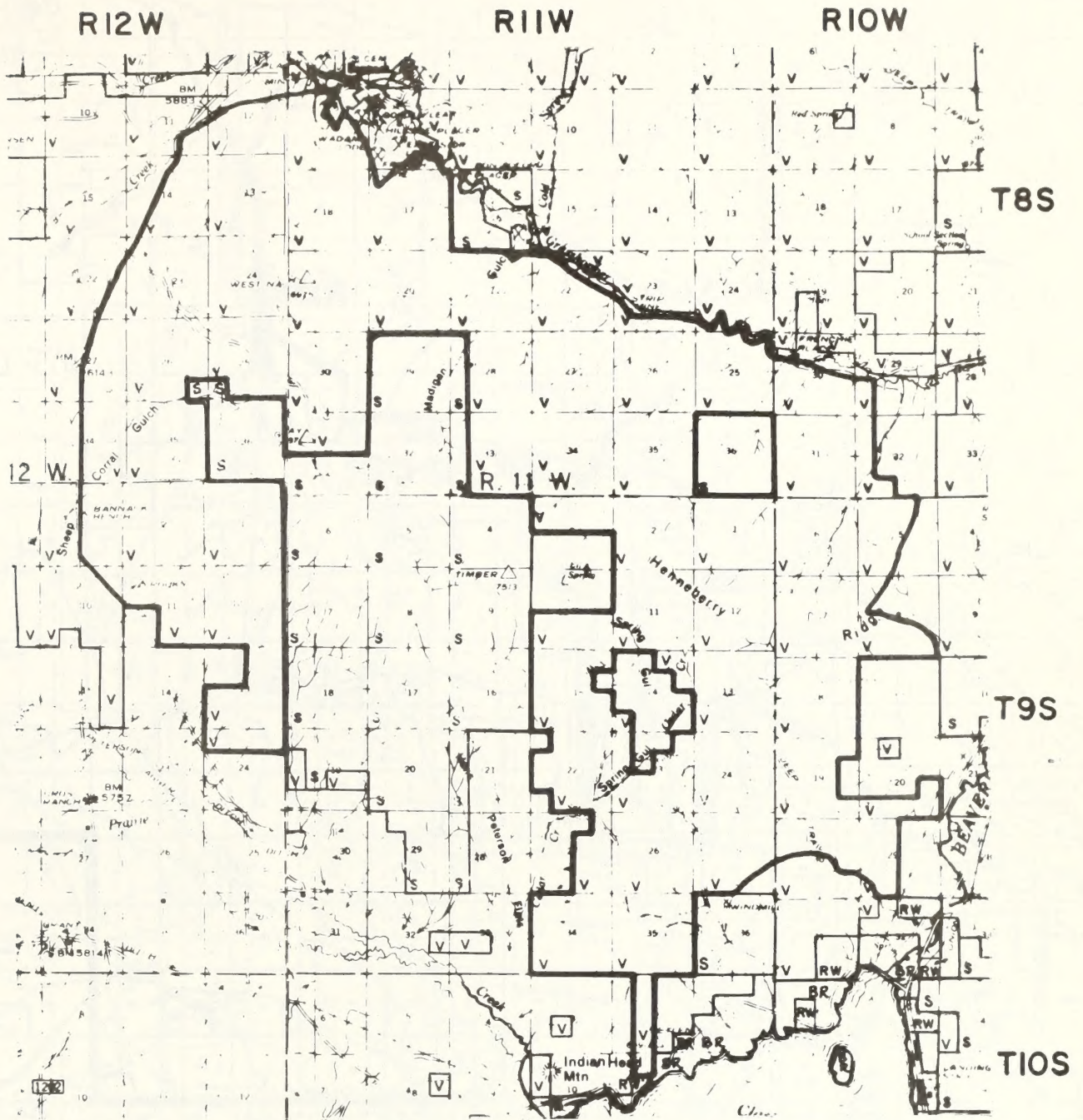
RIIW

RIOW

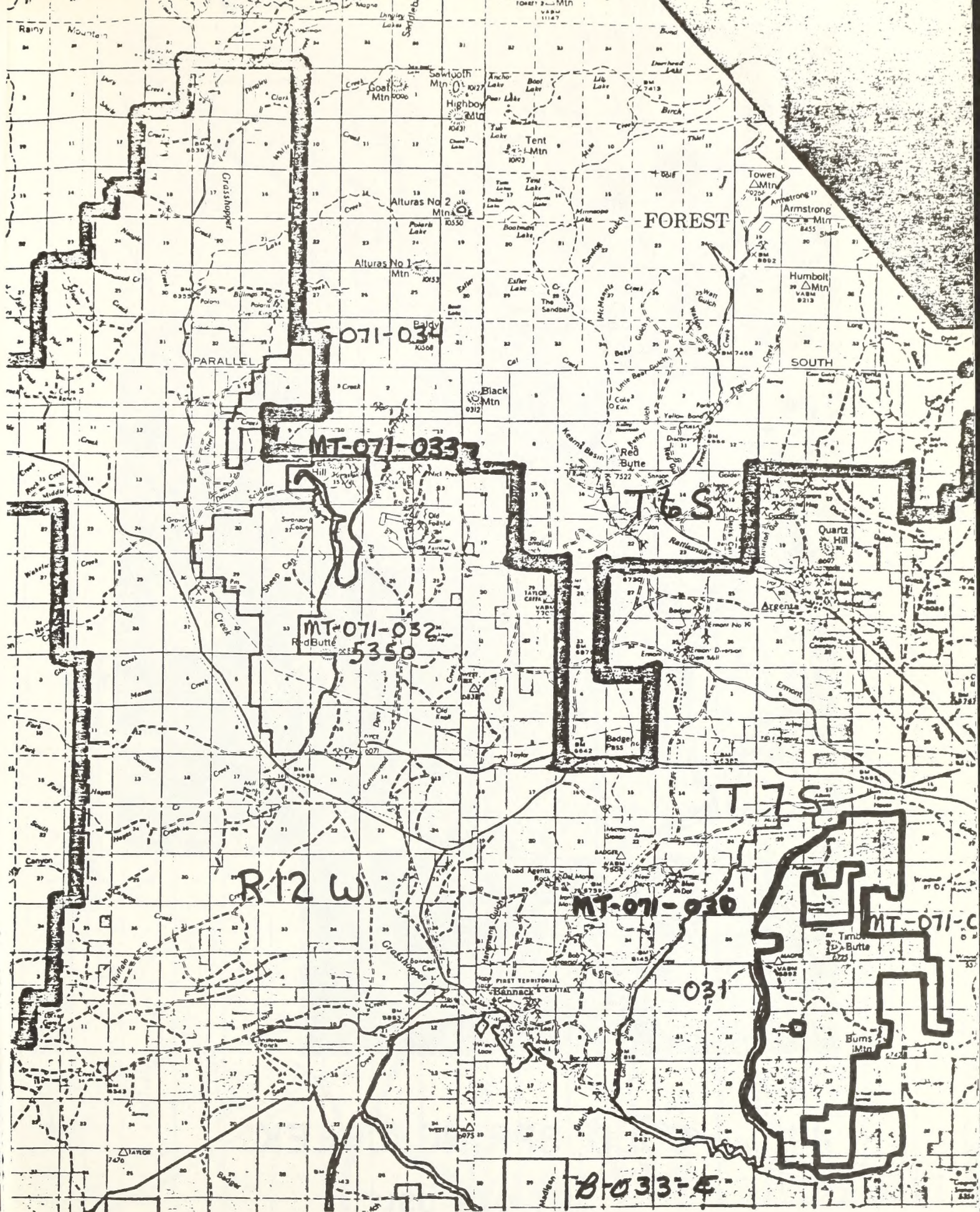


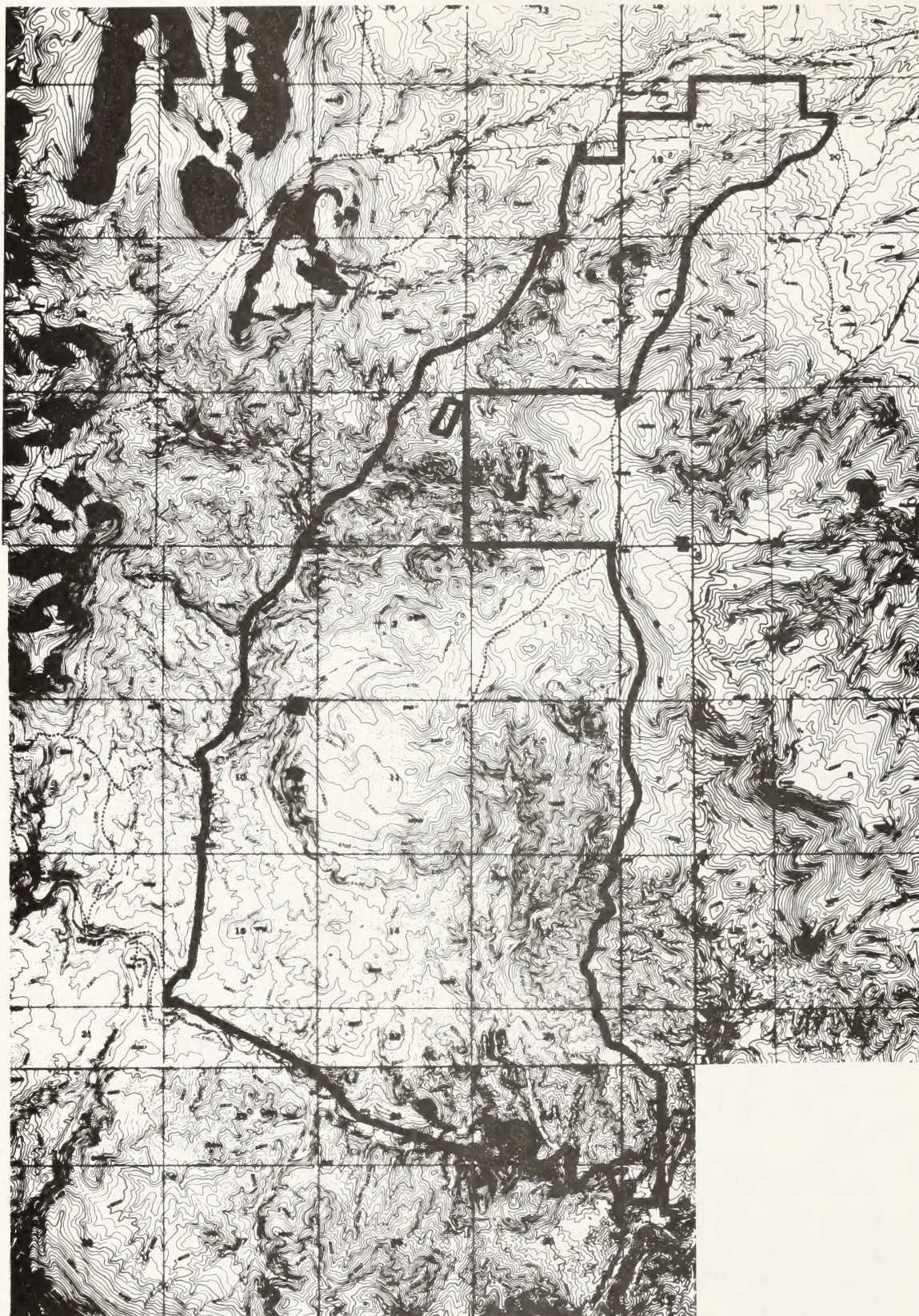
LIMEKILN CANYON

MT-076-027



HENNEBERRY RIDGE **MT-076-028**

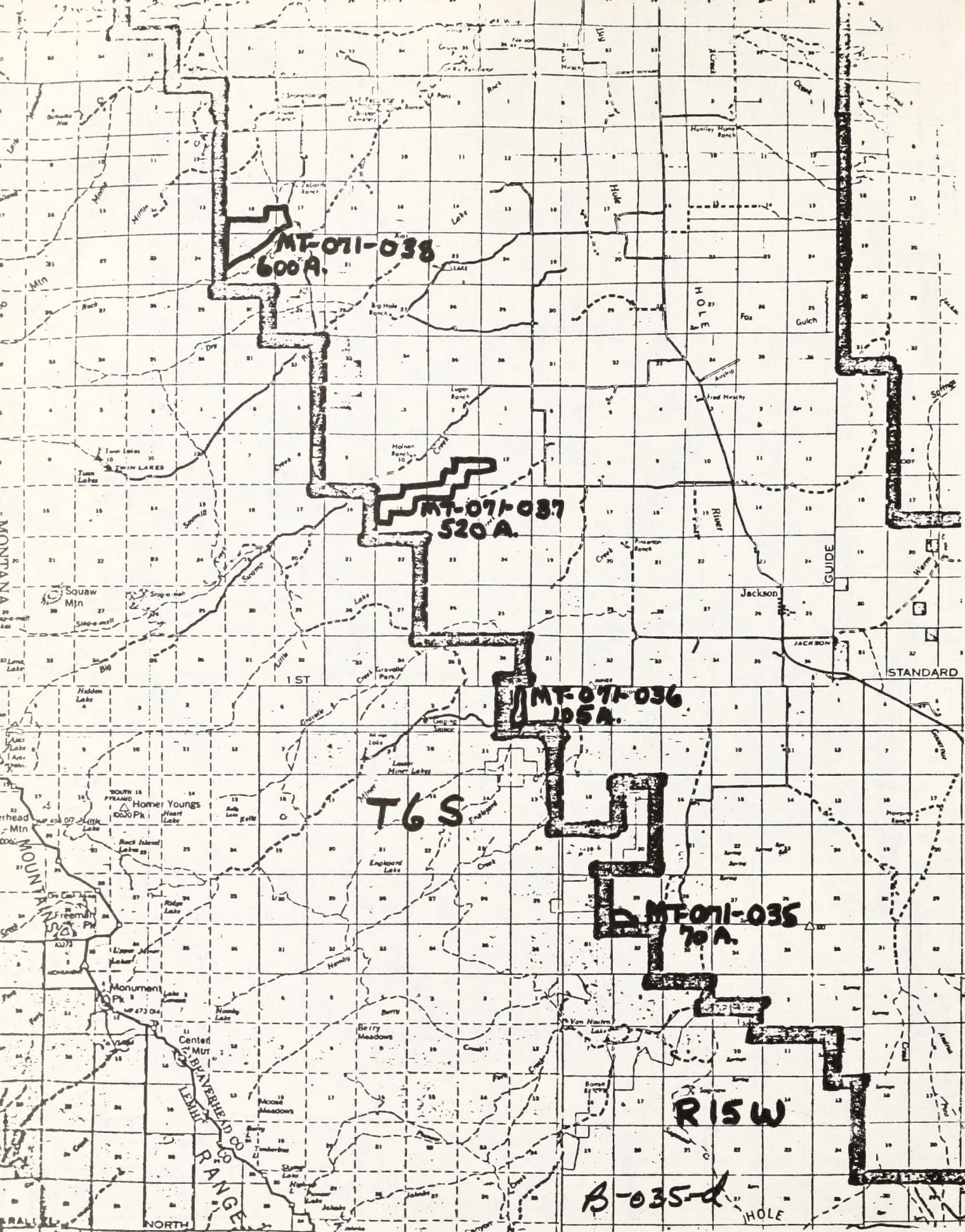




COLD SPRING CREEK

MT-076-031





MT-071-038
600A.

MT-071-037
520A.

MT-071-036
105A.

MT-071-035
70A.

B-035-d

T6S

R15W

HOLE

RIIW

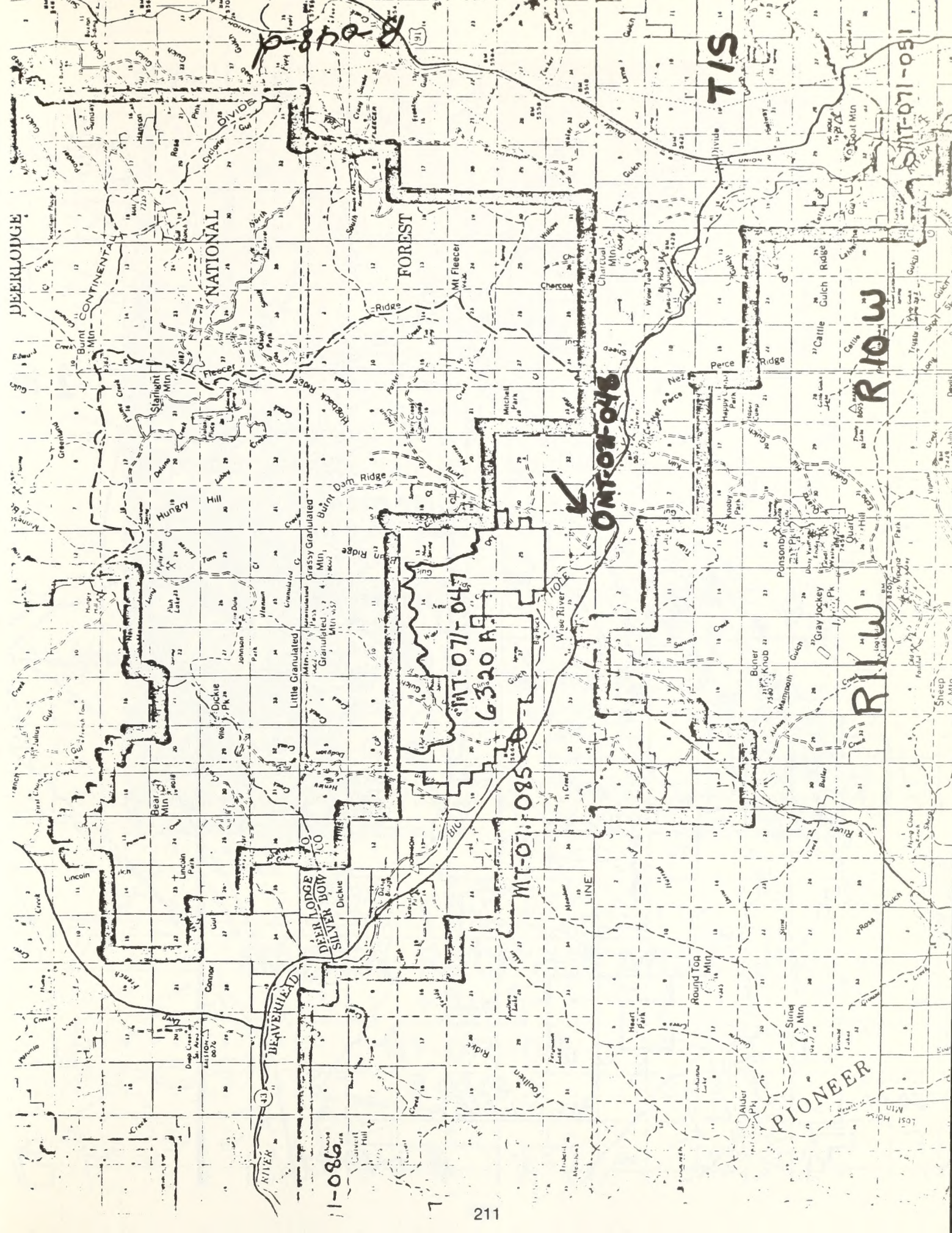
RIOW

TIN

TIS

JIMMIE NEW CREEK

MT-076-047



p-840-8

TIS

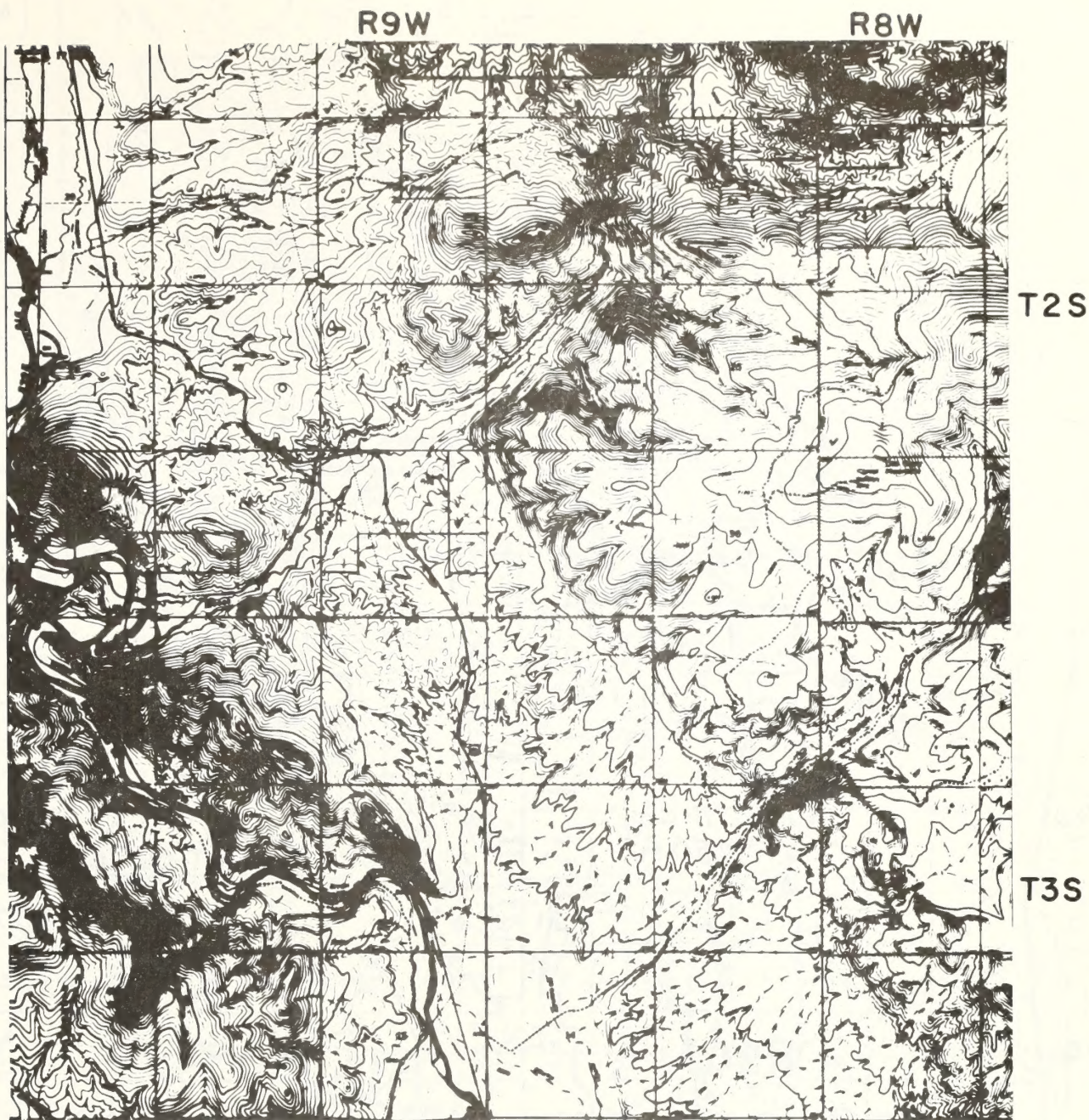
R10W

R11W

ONT-07-047
6320 A

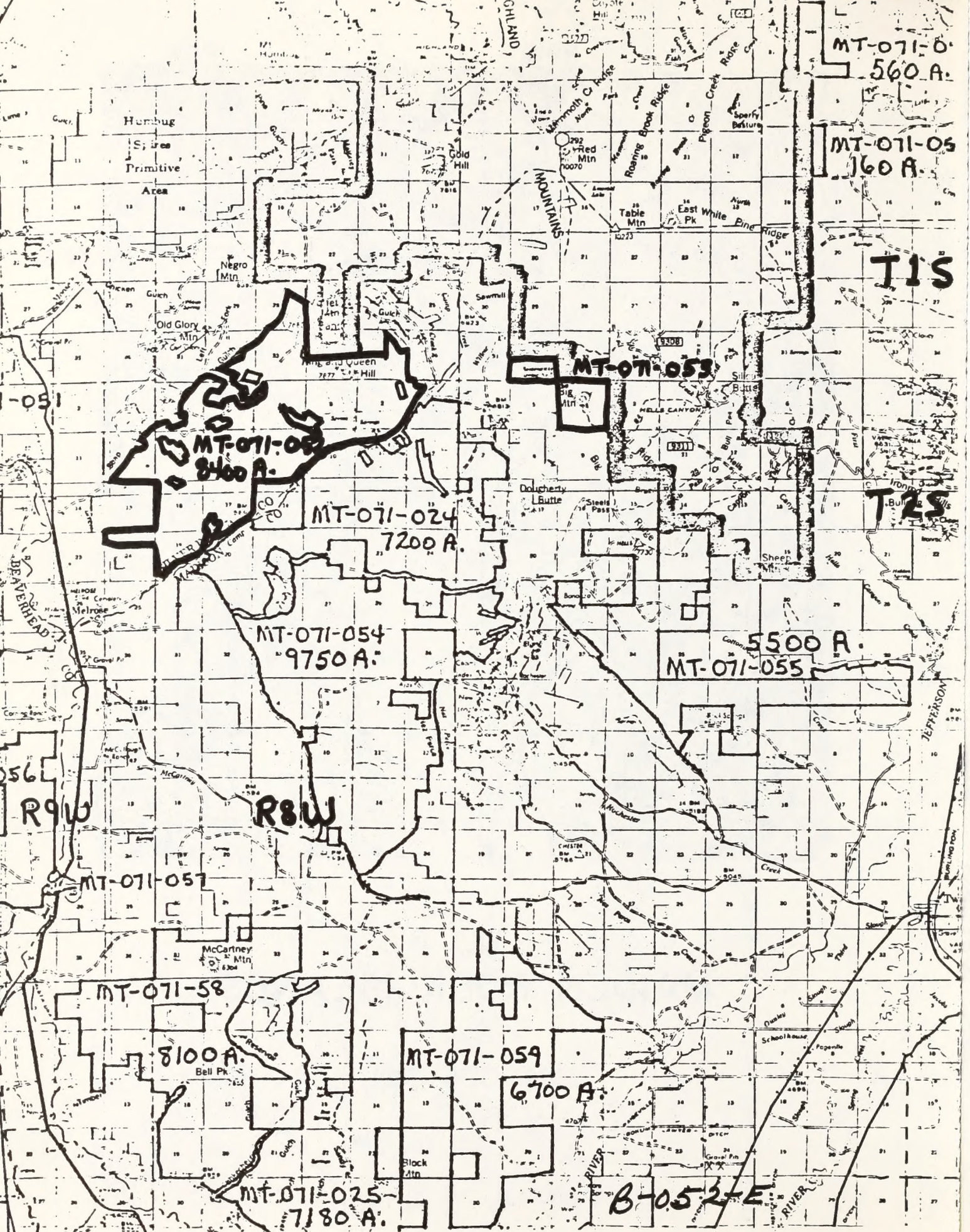
MT-07-085

1-086



MAIDEN ROCK ISLANDS

MT-076-05I



MT-071-01
560 A.

MT-071-05
160 A.

T1S

T2S

MT-071-053

MT-071-02
8400 A.

MT-071-024
7200 A.

MT-071-054
9750 A.

MT-071-055
5500 A.

R9W

R8W

MT-071-057

MT-071-58

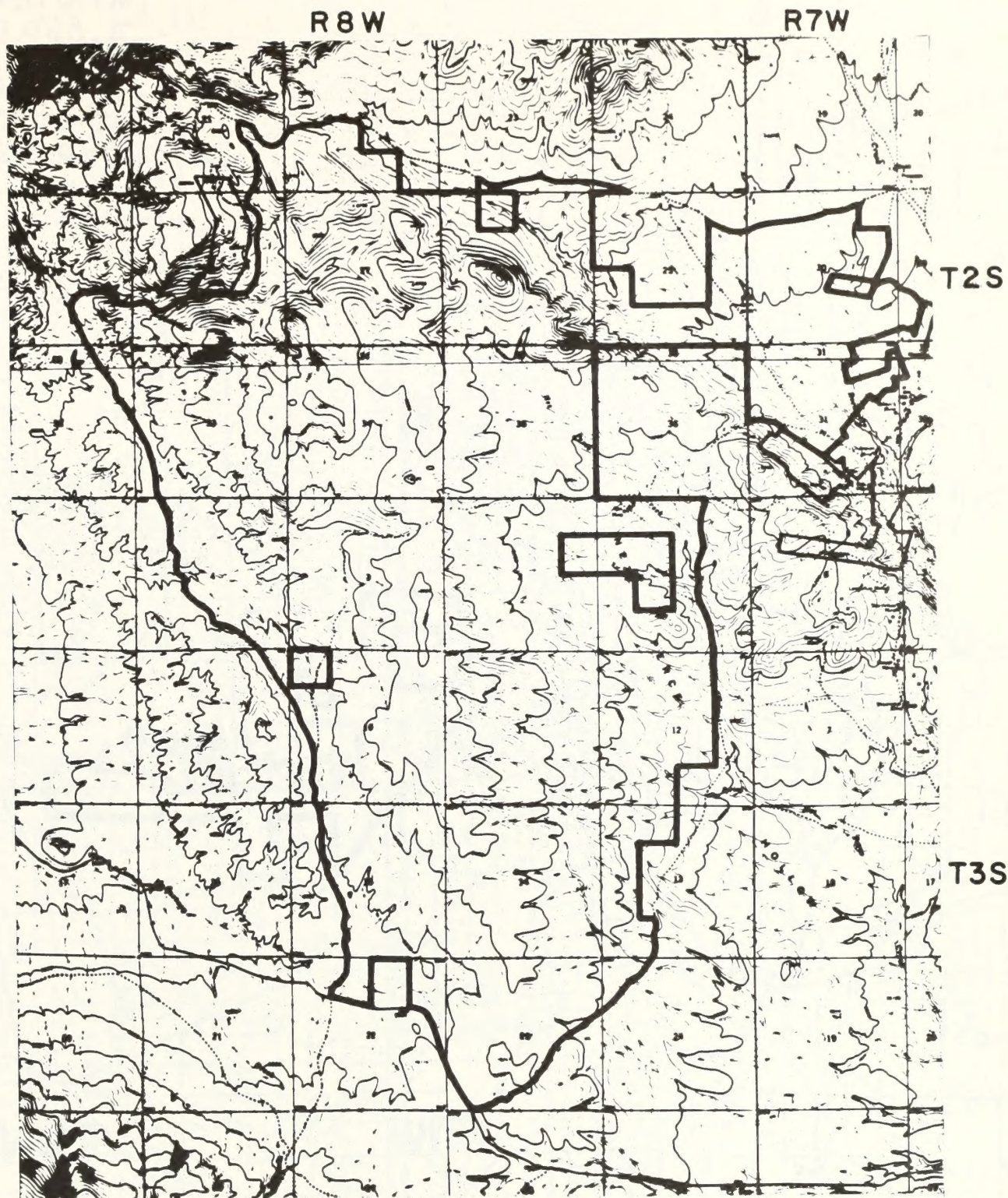
8100 A.
Bell Pk.

MT-071-059

6700 A.

MT-071-025
7180 A.

B-052-E



NEZ PERCE HOLLOW

MT-076-054

MT-071-050
160A.

[illegible]

MT-071-054
"9750 A."

35 *Cutter* **\$500 A** 32
MTF 071-055

T2S

T3S

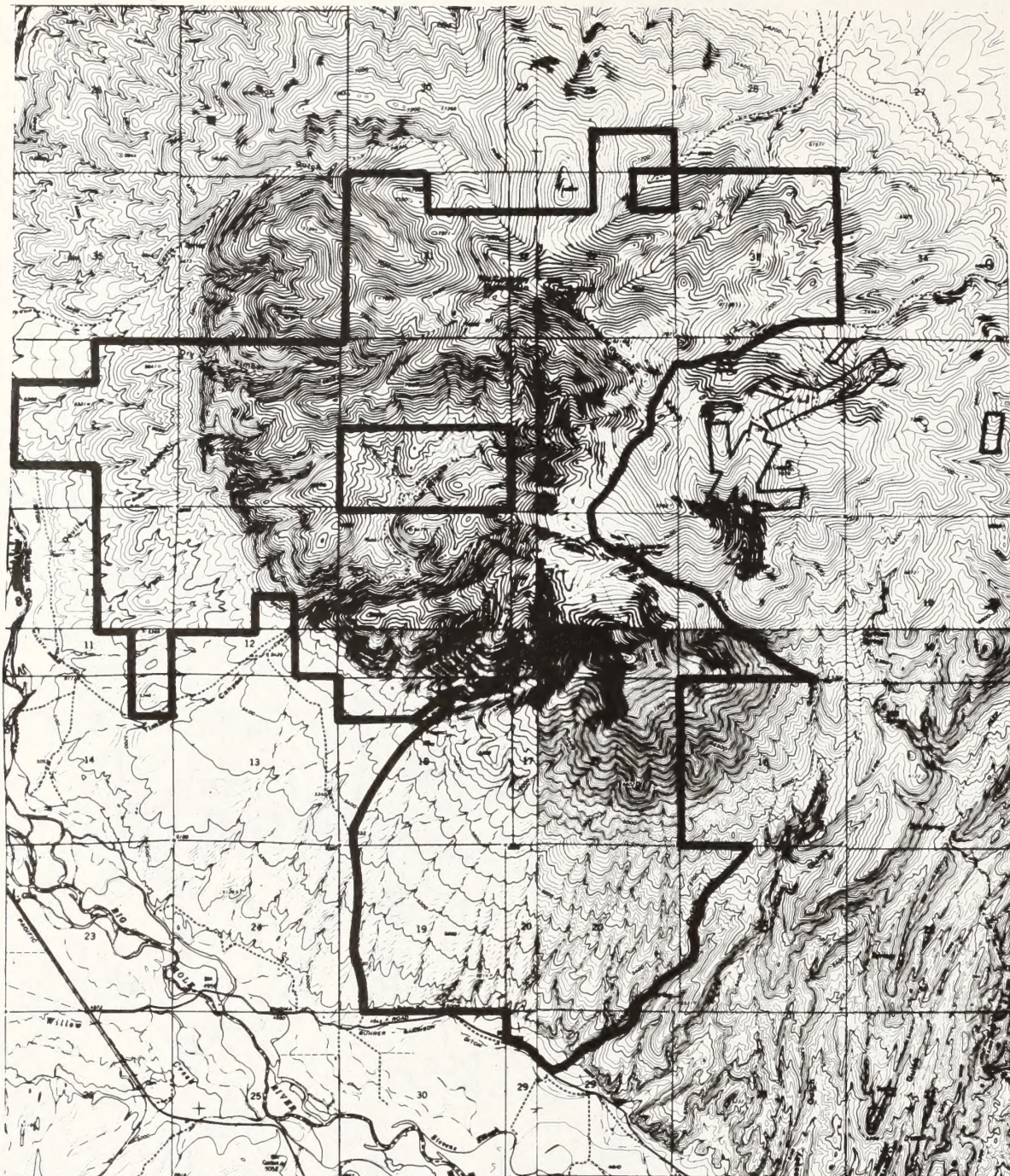
R7W

R6W

B-55-E

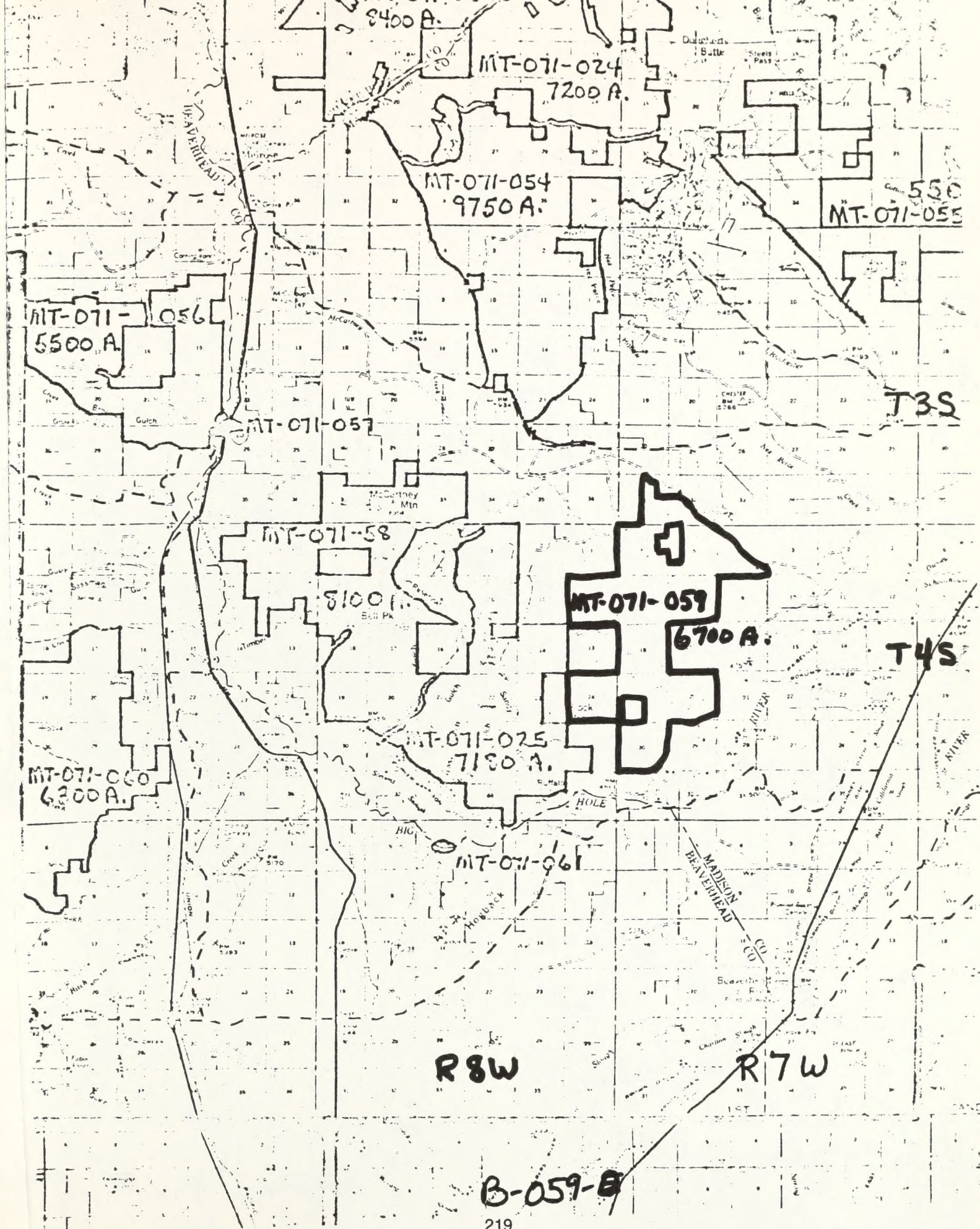
R9W

R8W

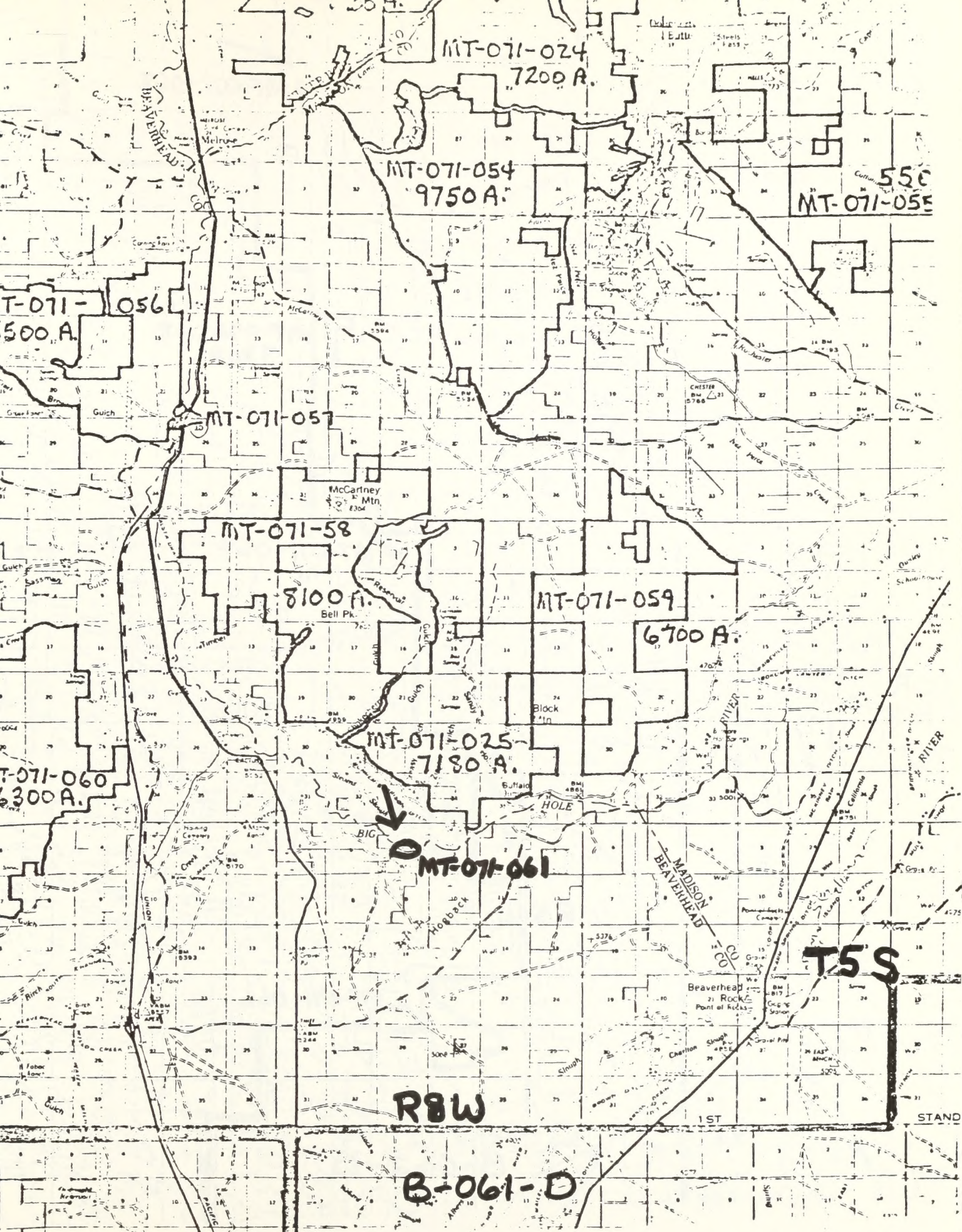


McCartNEY MOUNTAIN

MT-076-058



B-059-B



T-071-049
560 A.

T-071-050
160 A.

0 MT-071-062

DEER LODGE
MT-071-063
330 A.

MT-071-064
10 A.

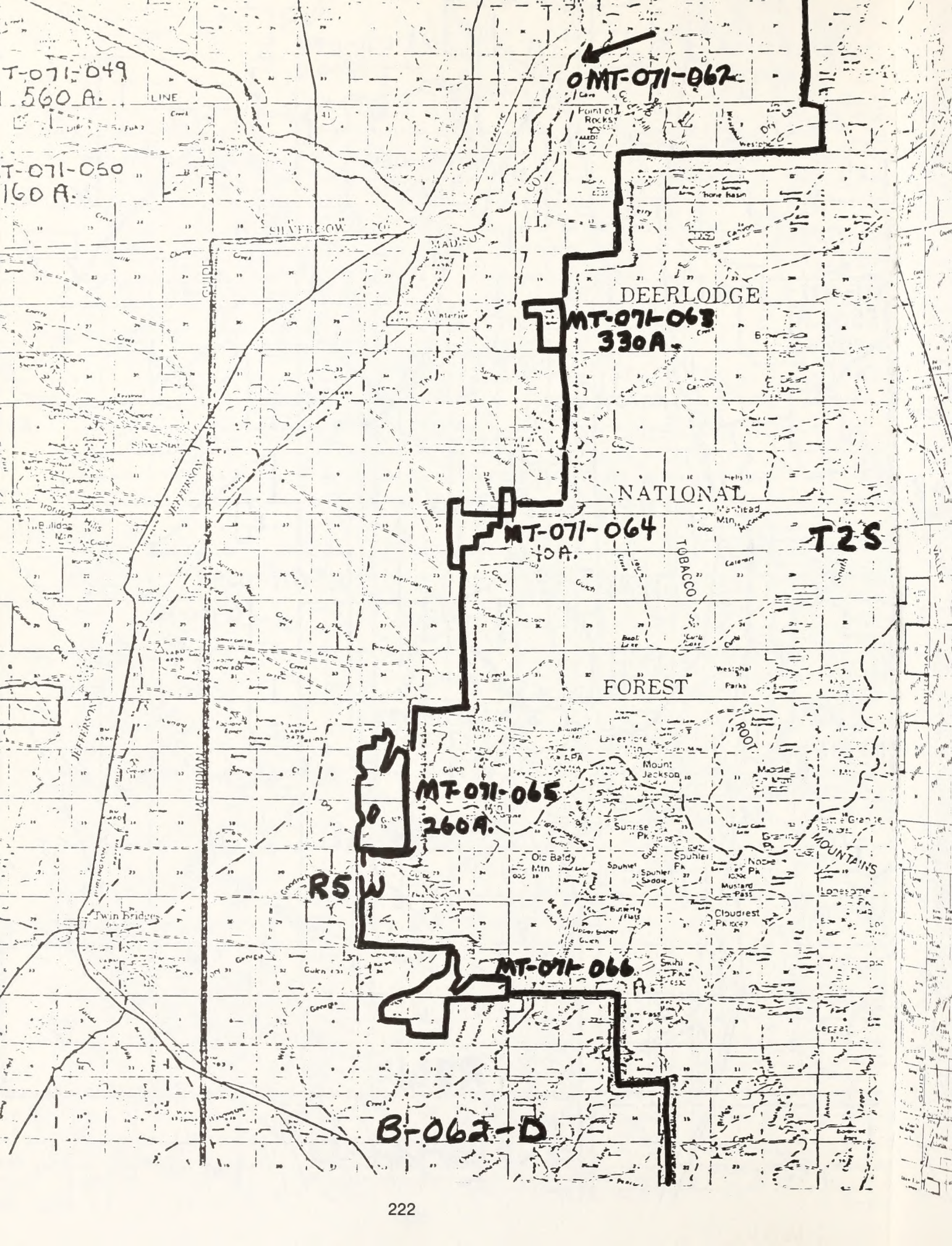
MT-071-065
260 A.

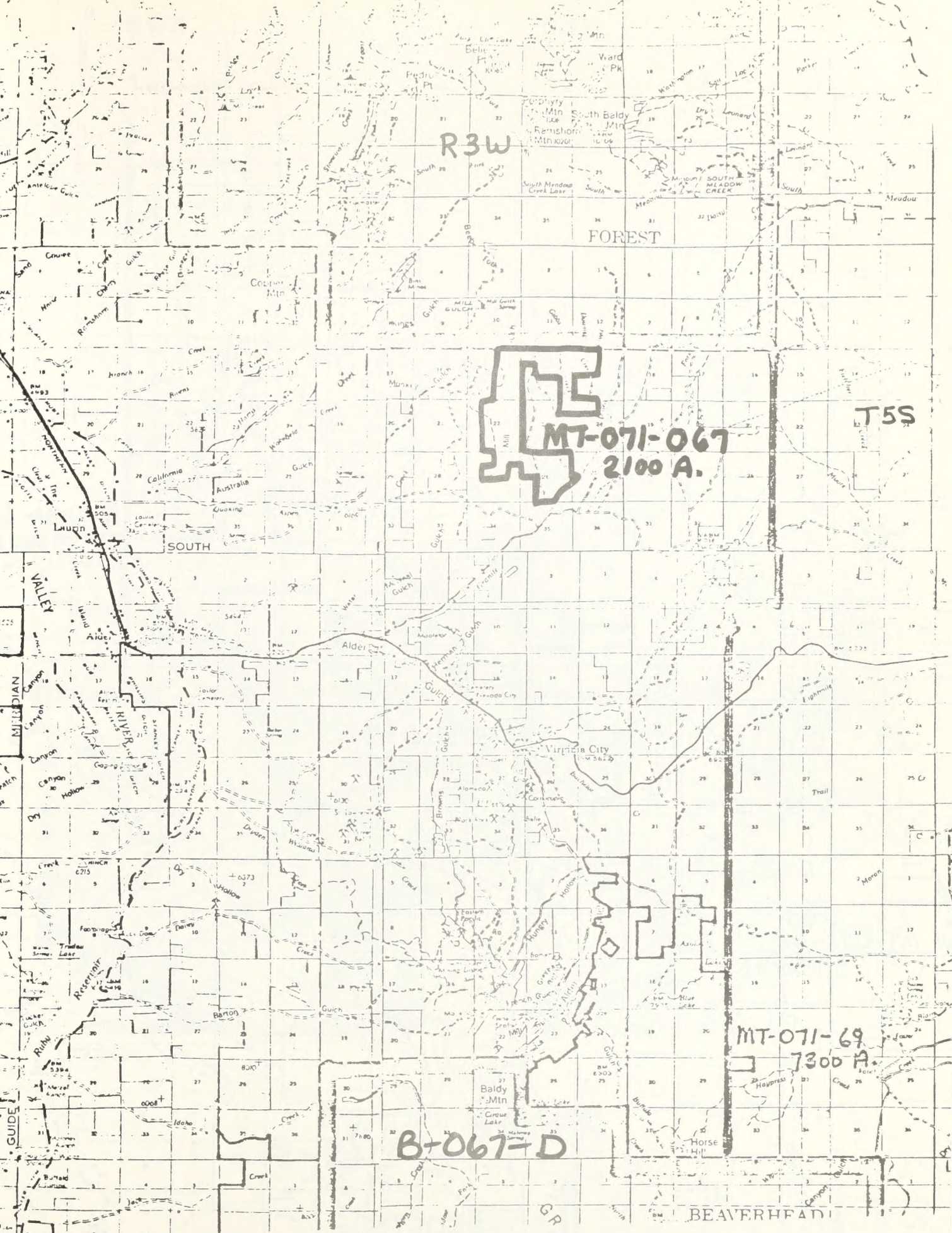
MT-071-066
A.

B-062-D

T2S

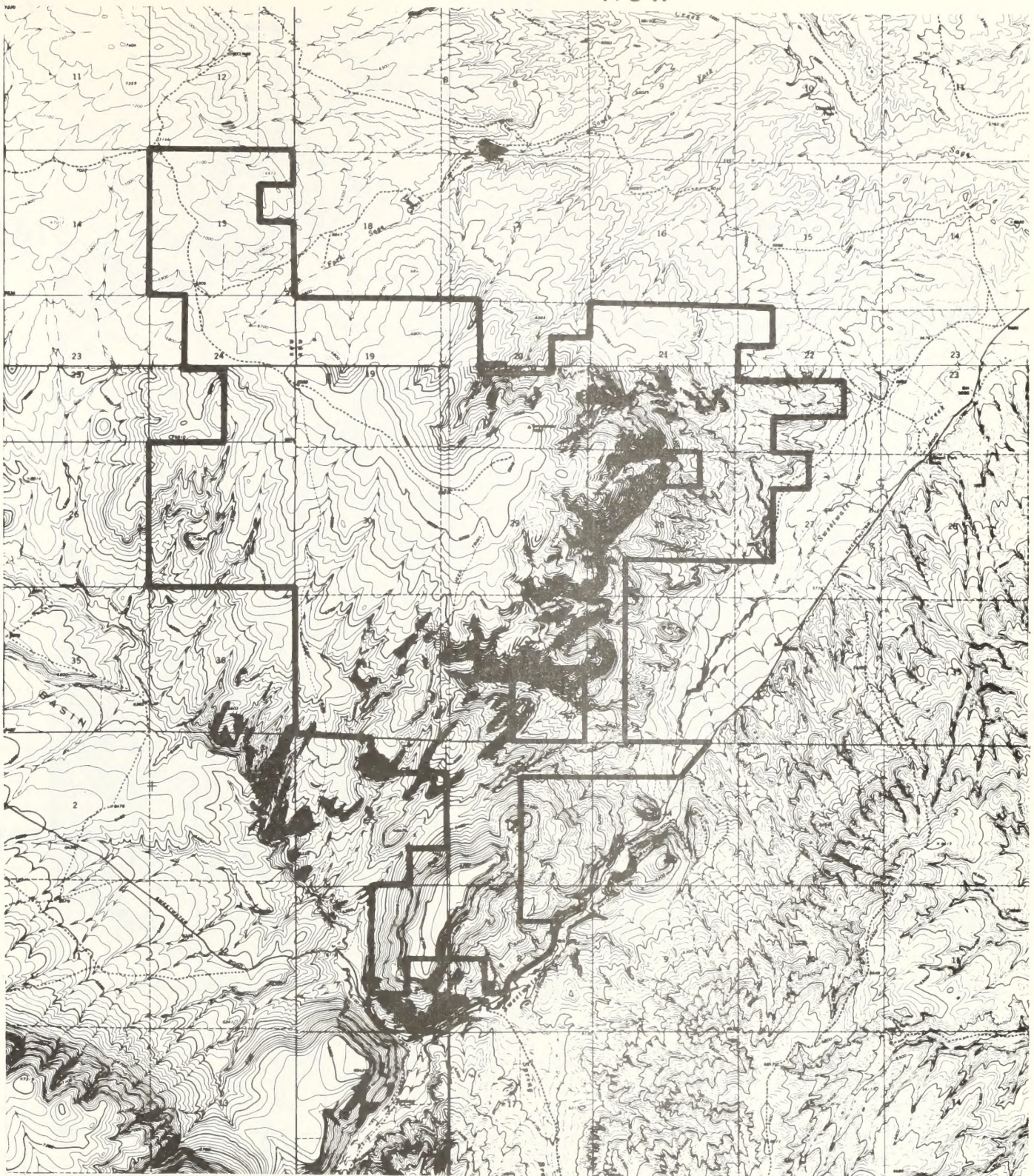
RSW





R6W

R5W



T8S

T9S

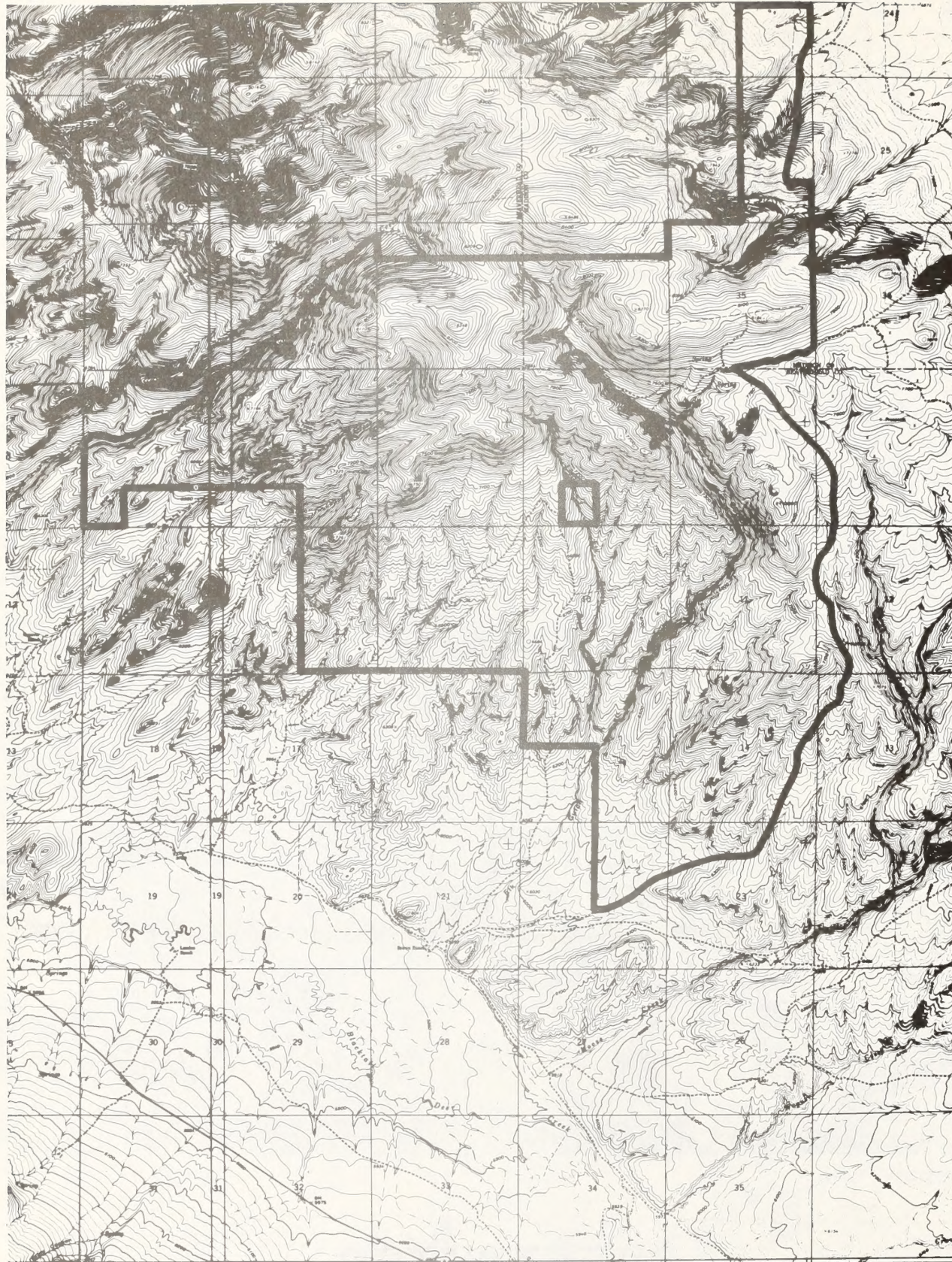
SWEETWATER

MT-076-070

R8W

R7W

R6W



T8S

T9S

ELK GULCH

MT-076-071



71-074
620A.

MT-071-075

3400 A.

MT-071-076

MT-071-078

MT-071-077

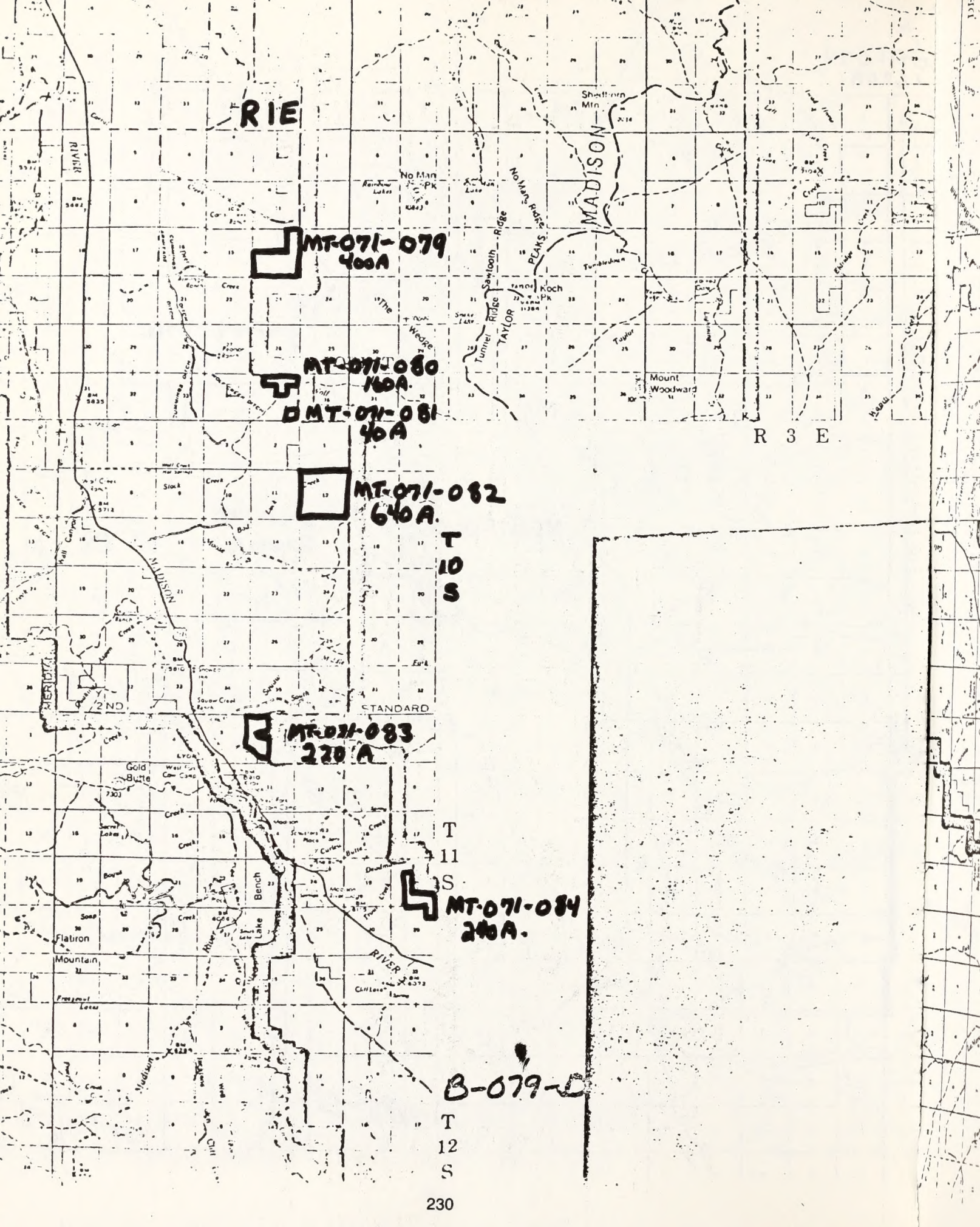
2100 A.

T45

RIE

STANDARD

B-078-D



RIE

Madison

MT-071-079
400A

MT-071-080
160A

MT-071-081
40A

MT-071-082
640A

T
10
S

MT-071-083
220A

T
11
S

MT-071-084
200A

B-079-C

T
12
S

三

117-071-047

580-140-1W

Q 10-071-018

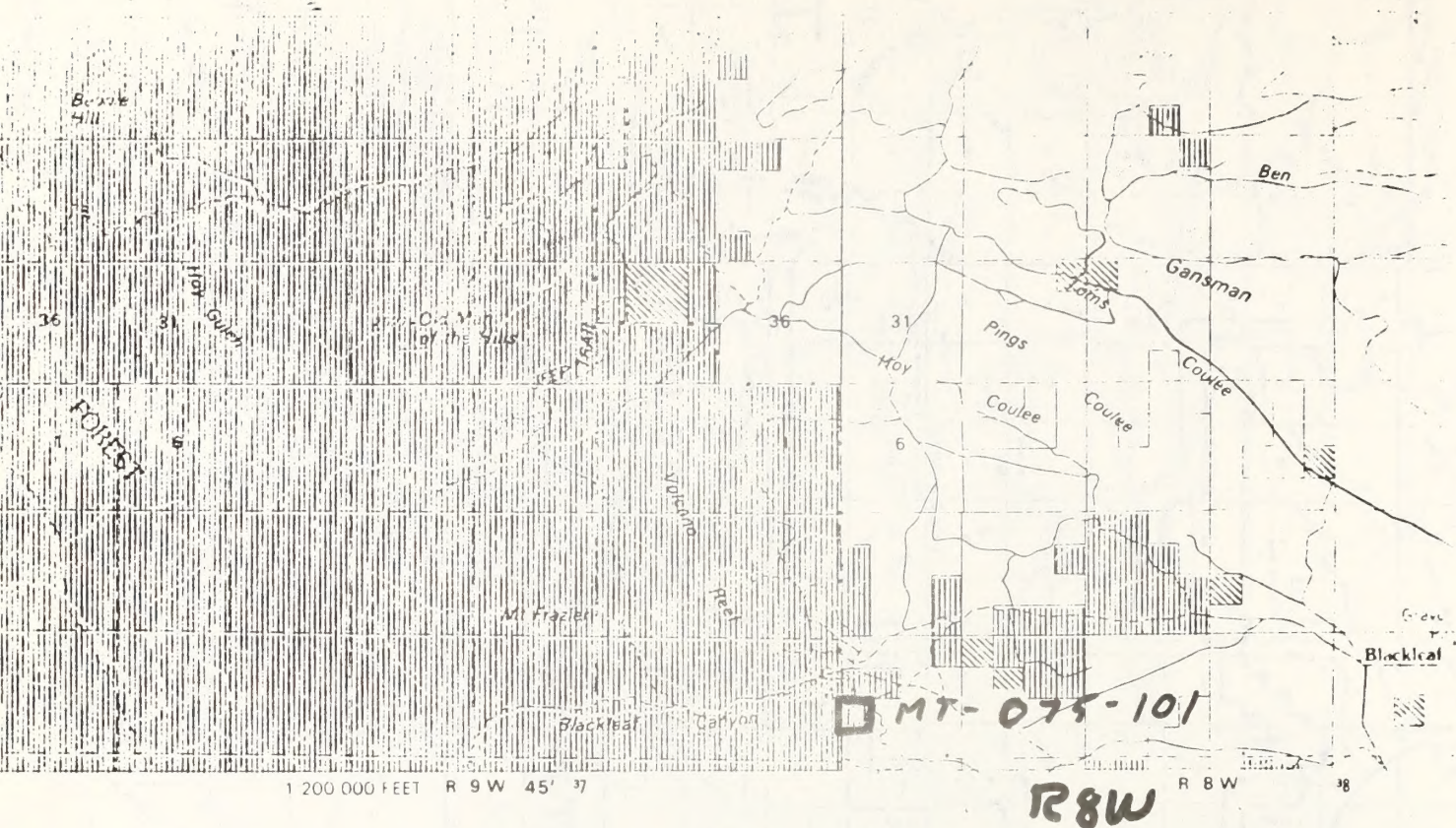
AT-071-996

LAO-120-1M

B-086-D

9133

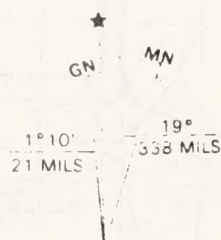
PIONEER



INDEX TO 1:24 000 AND 1:62 500-SCALE MAPS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	23		24
19	20	21	22			

- 1 Magee Ranch-1968
- 2 White Man Coulee-1968
- 3 Pings-1968
- 4 Rocky Ridge-1968
- 5 BLM-1975
- 6 BLM-1975
- 7 BLM-1975
- 8 Mitten Lake-1968
- 9 Heart Butte-1968
- 10 Four Horns Lake-1968
- 11 Robere-1968
- 12 BLM-1975
- 13 BLM-1975
- 14 Valer-1934
- 15 Swift Reservoir-1968
- 16 Fish Lake-1968
- 17 Stoflin Butte-1968
- 18 Dupuyer West-1968
- 19 Gateway Pass-1968
- 20 Walling Reef-1968
- 21 Volcano Reef-1968
- 22 Blackleaf-1968
- 23 Pendroy-1936
- 24 Gallup City-1936



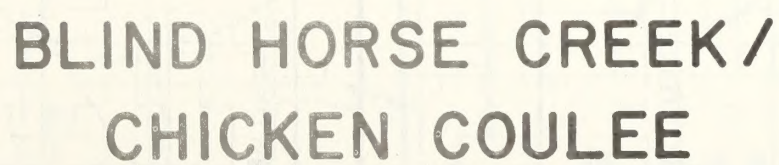
UTM GRID AND 1975 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF MAP

Contiguous Area

Unknown islands

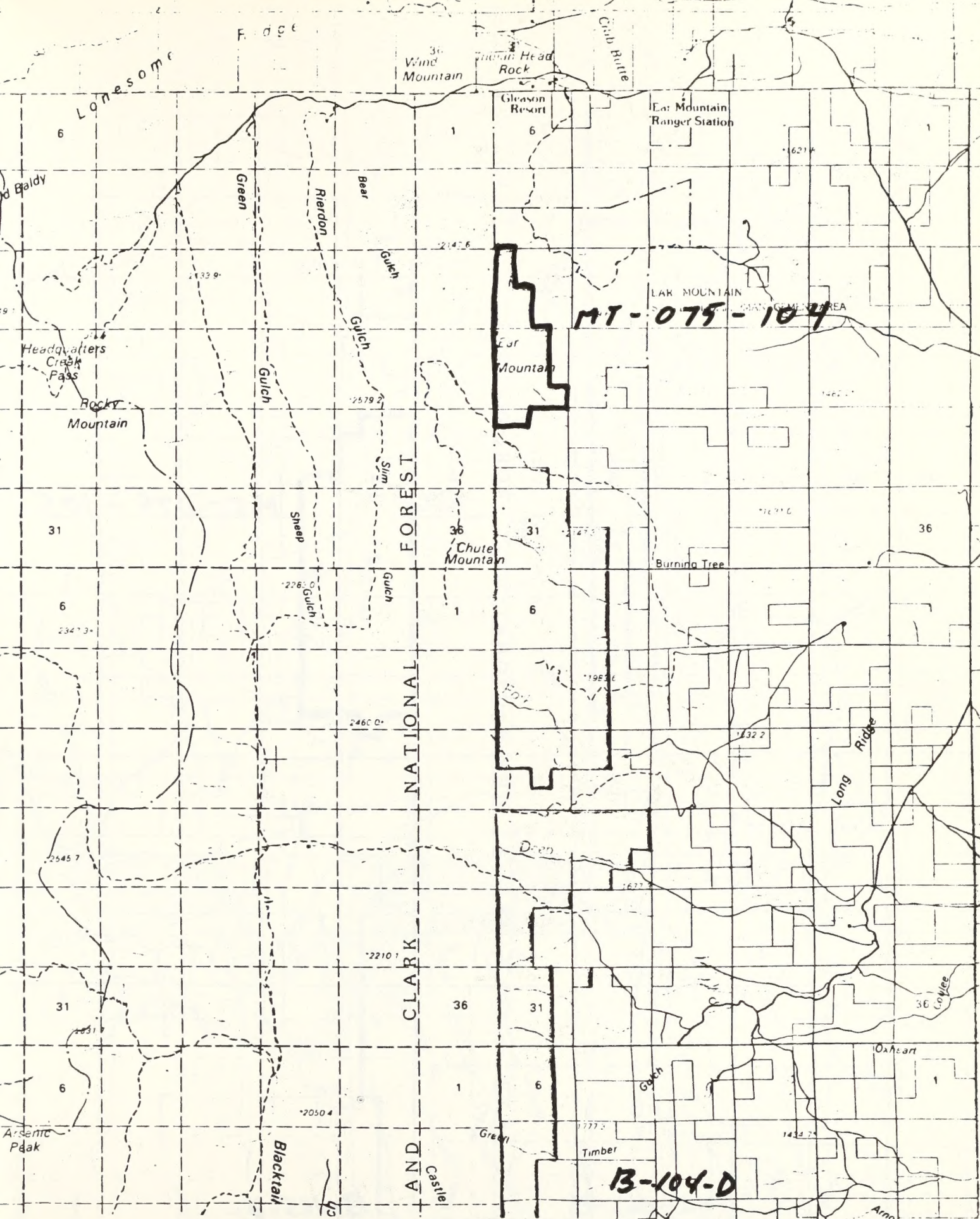
FOR

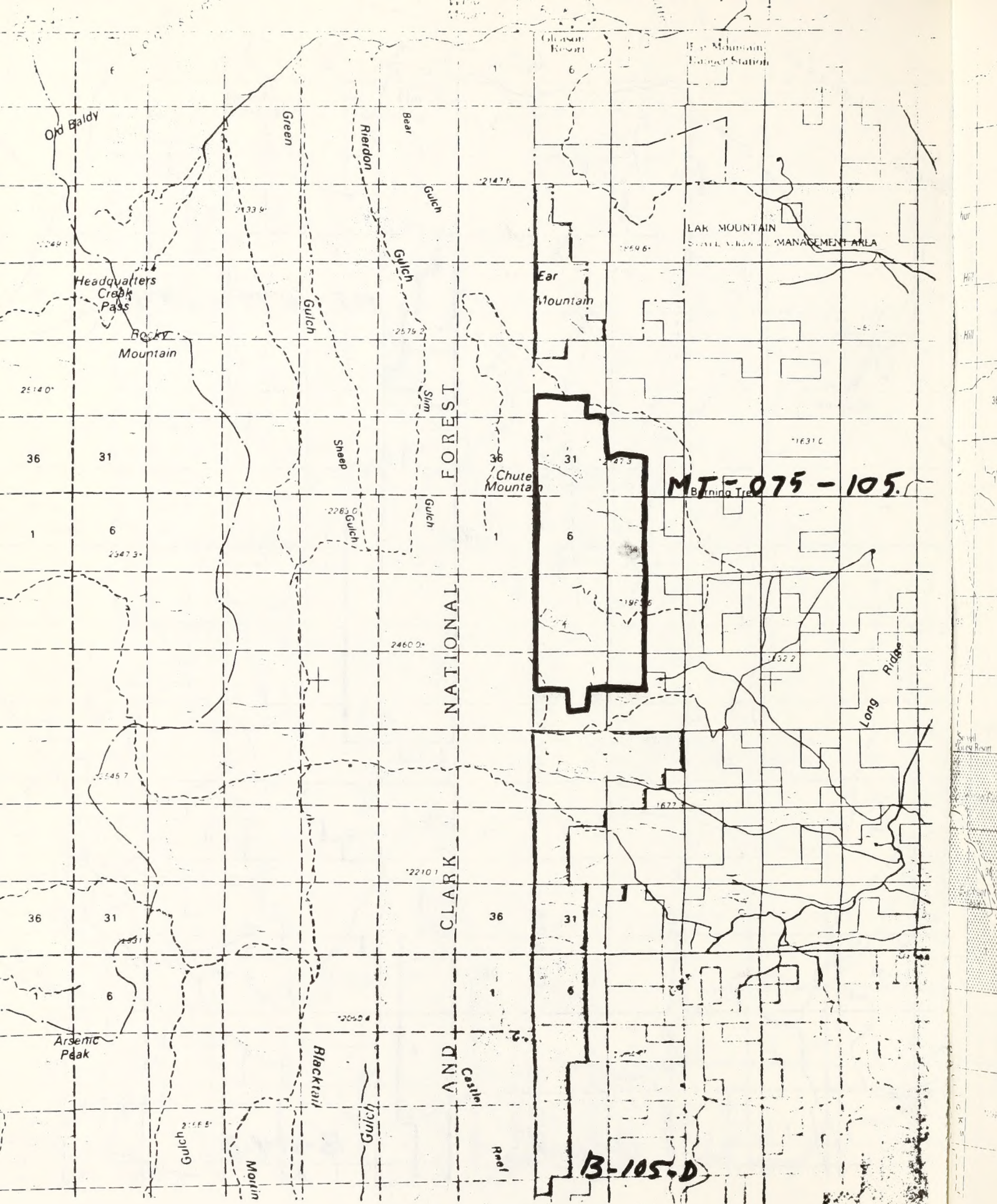
B-101-D

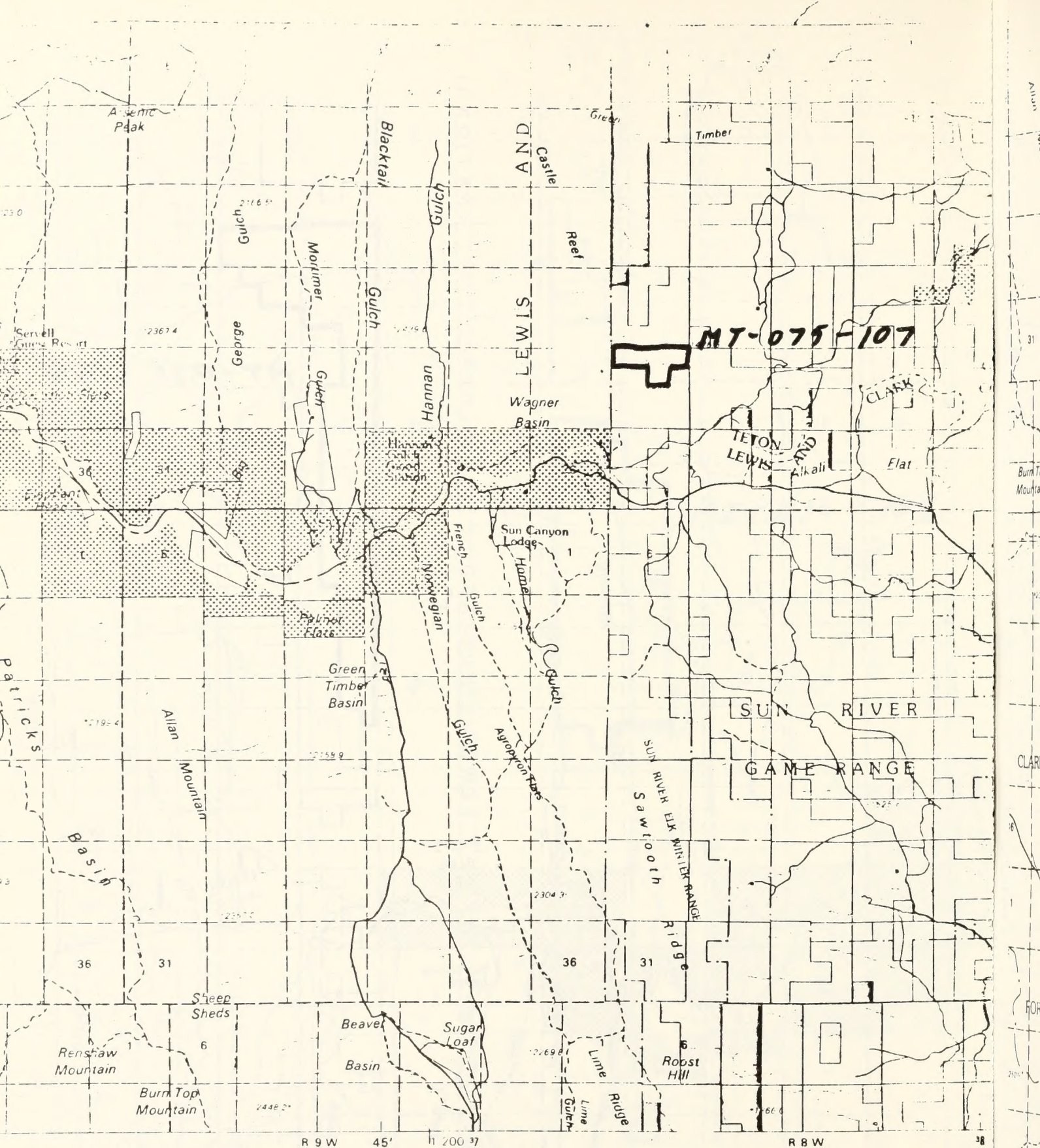


MT-075-102









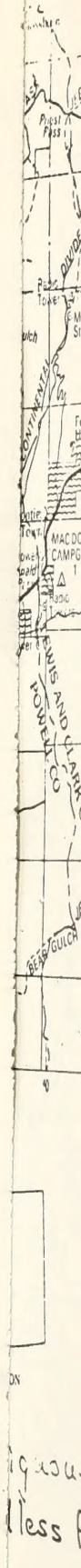
INDEX TO 1:24 000 AND 1:62 500-SCALE MAPS

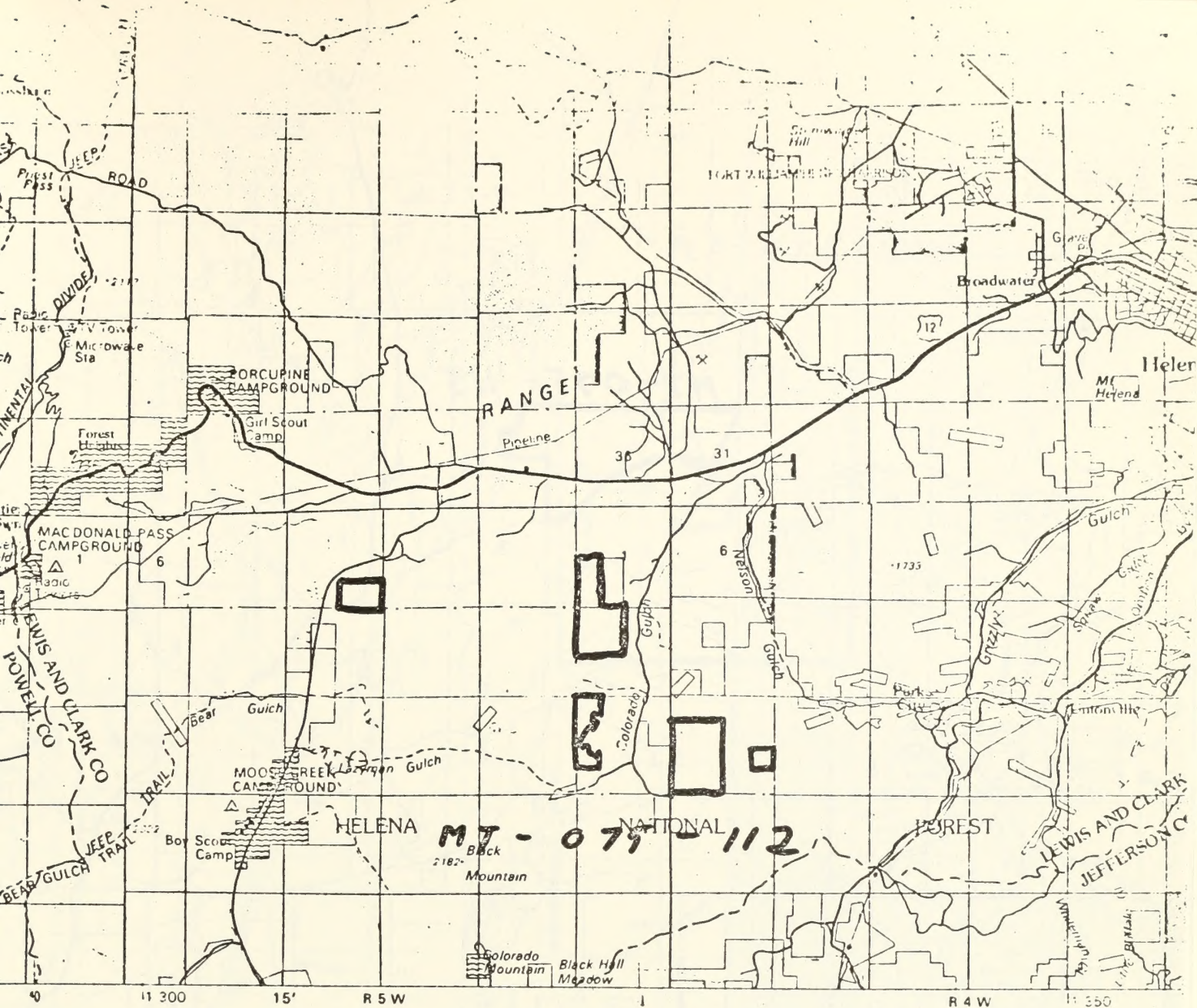
1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

- 1 Porphyry Reef 1958
- 2 Mt. Wright 1958
- 3 Cave Min. 1958
- 11 Glenn Creek 1958
- 12 Arsenic Peak 1958
- 13 Castle Reef 1958

B-107-D







LEGEND

Perennial stream, lake

Intermittent stream, lake

Village or locality

Landmark structure

ROAD CL/

Primary highway, hard surface

Secondary highway, hard sur

Light-duty road, hard or impr

Unimproved road

Trail

 Interstate route

gaseous Area
less Area

ELLISTO

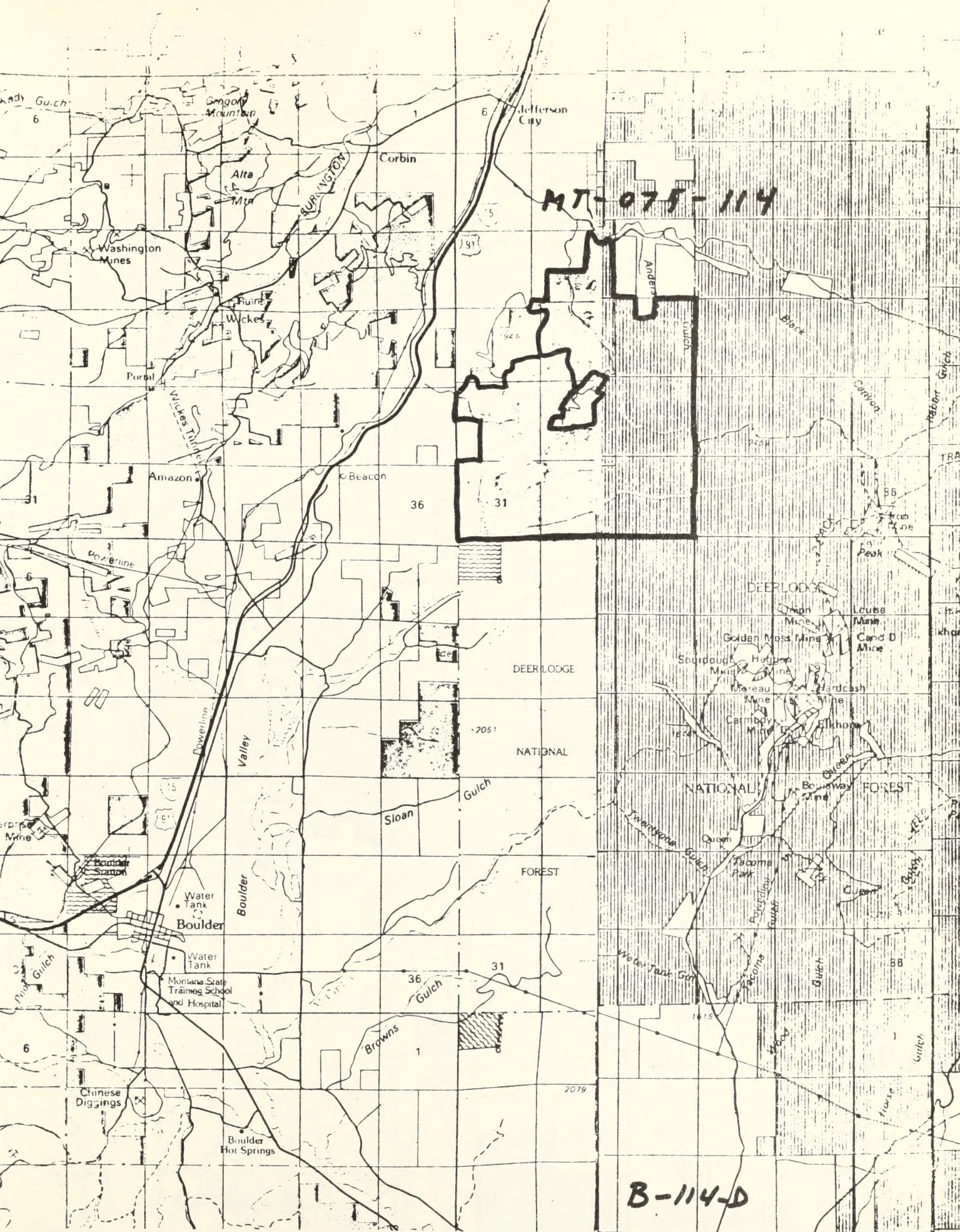
NE 4 ROUTE INL

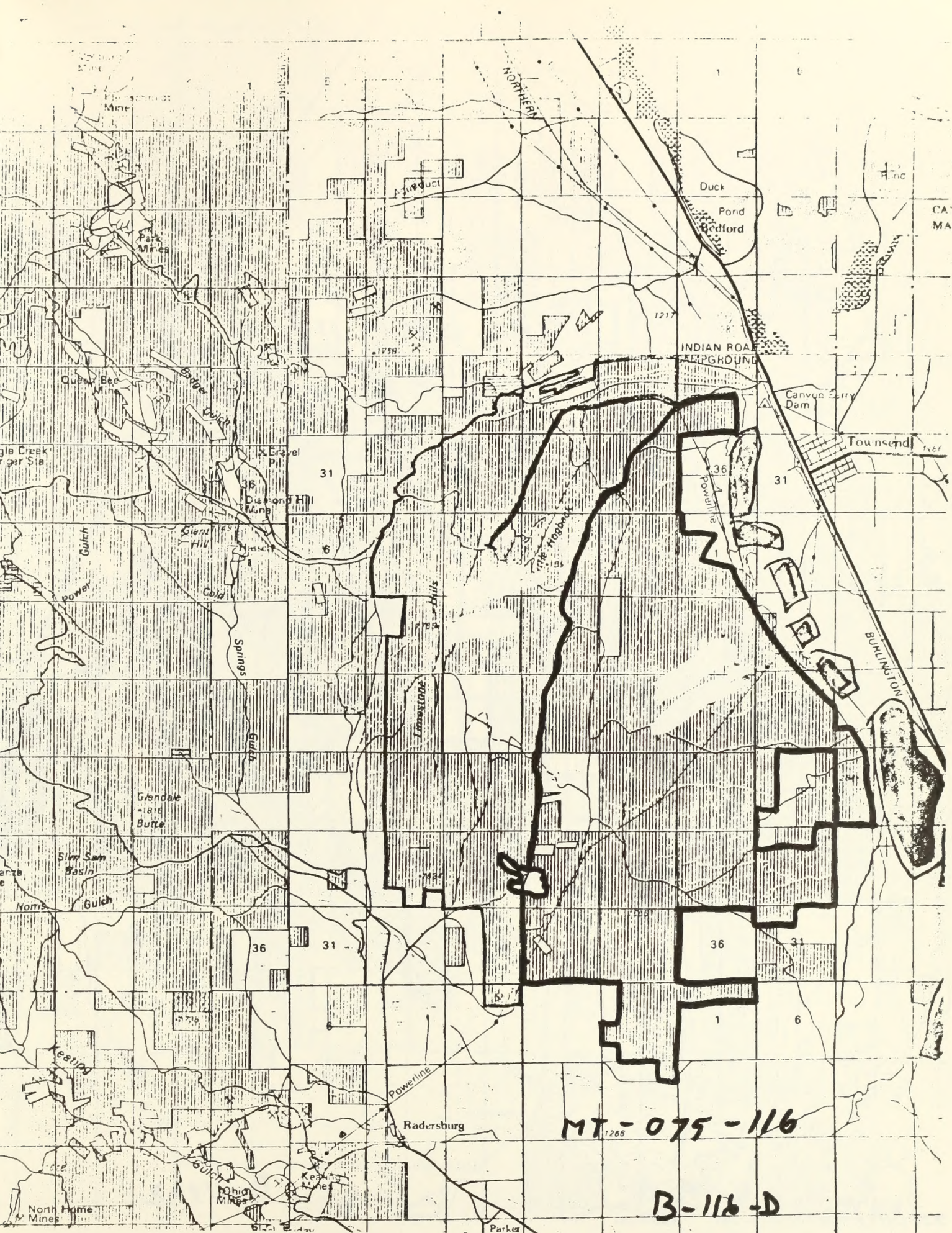
N4630-4

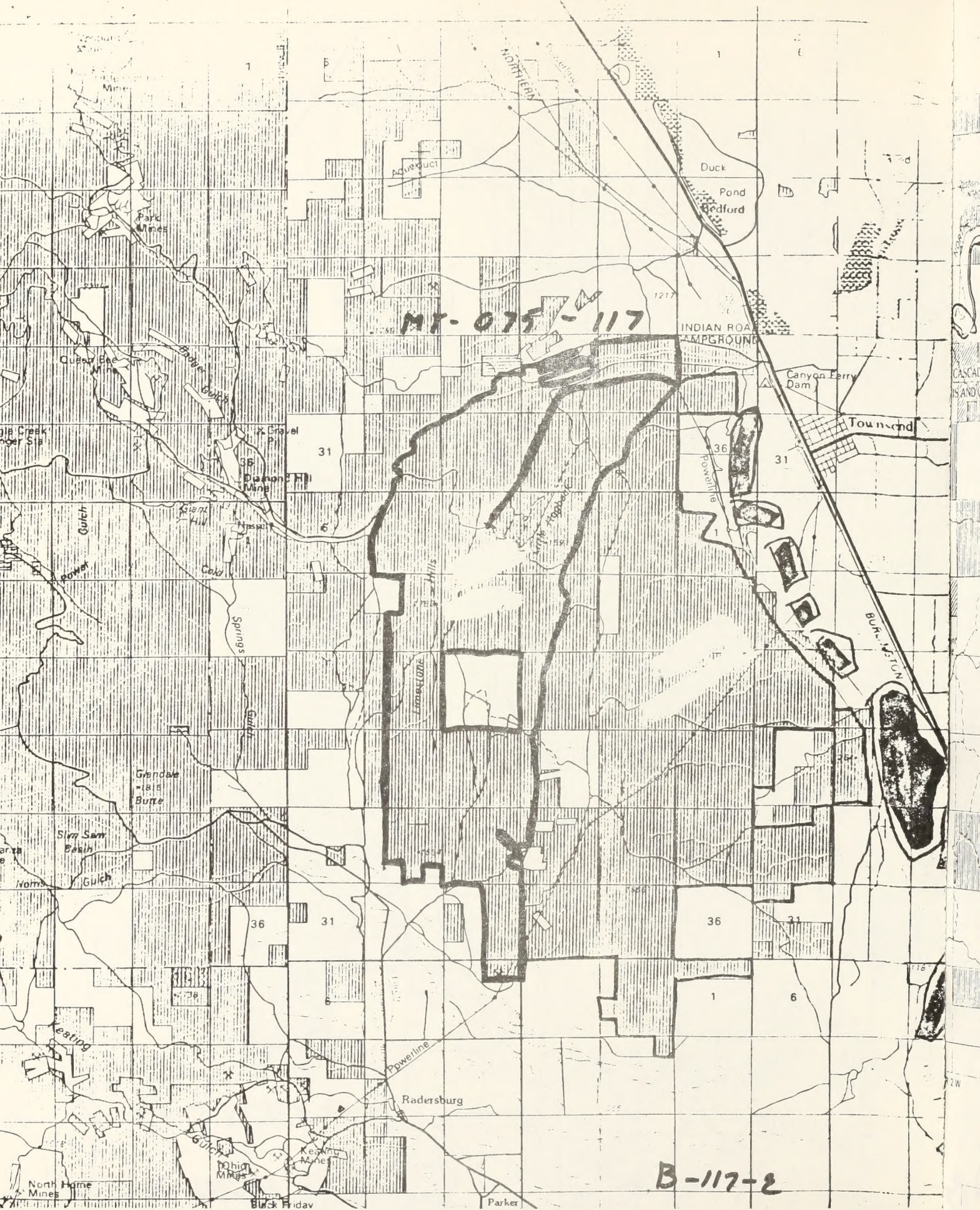
SURFACE MA

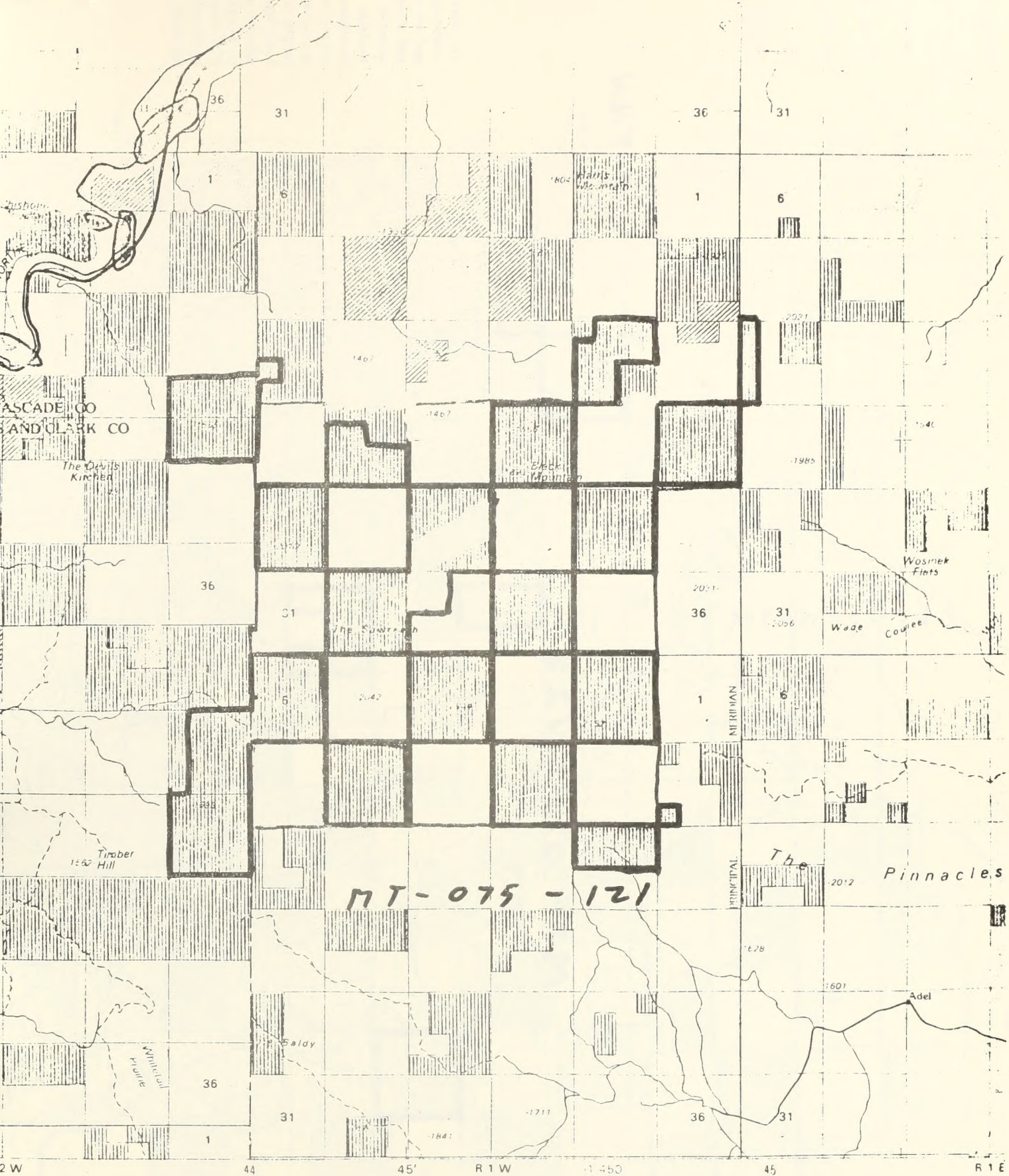
B-112-D











INDEX TO 1:24 000 AND 1:62 500-SCALE MAPS

1 Simms-1960
2 Cascade-1949
3 Cascade-1960

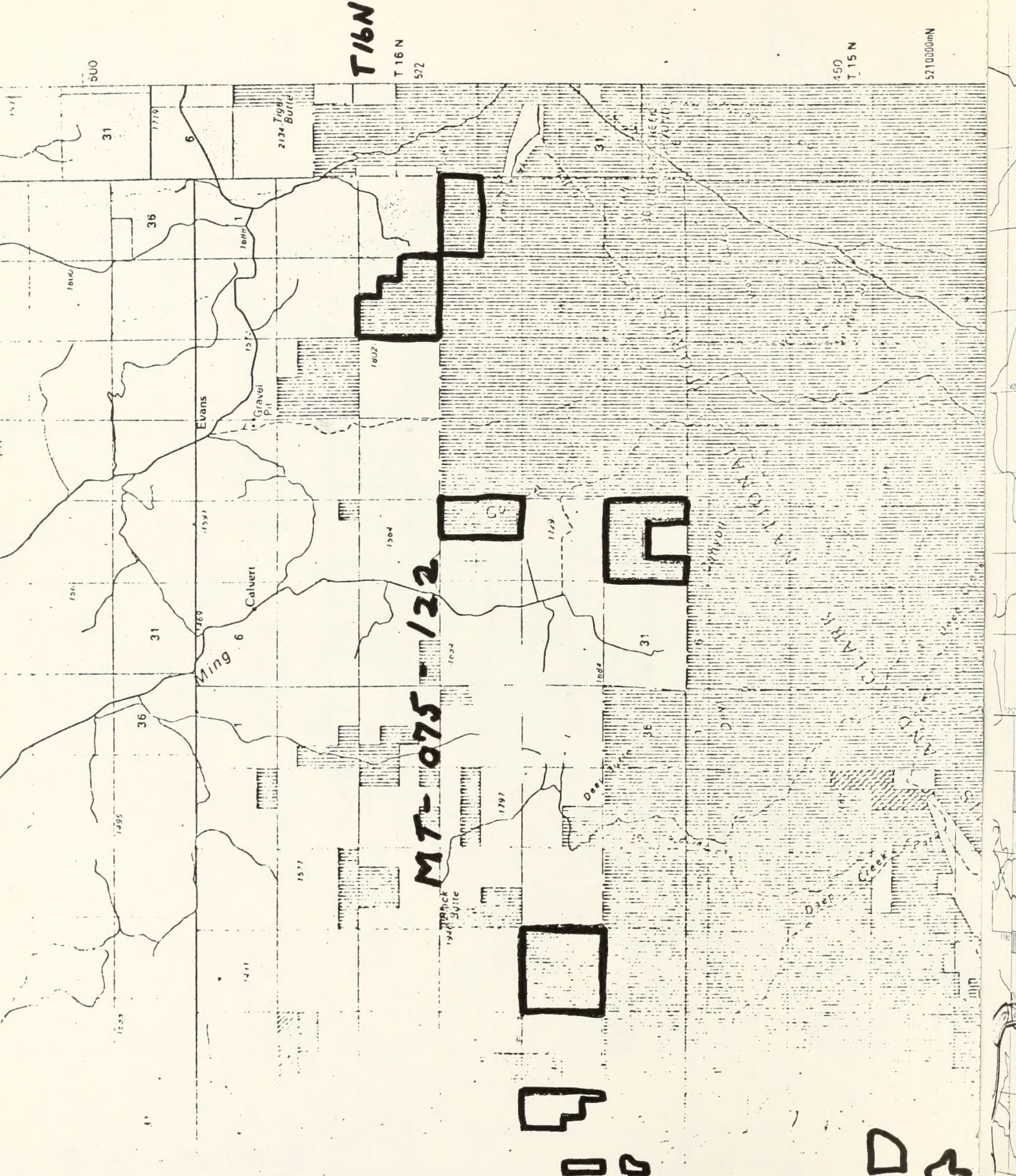
14 Schrammick Lake-1961
15 Spanish Coulee School-1971
16 Spanish Coulee School-1971

B-121-D

★
GN
MN

Mineral
All mineral
Coal only
Oil and Gas
Oil, Gas,
Other
No symbols
Federal m

The surf
overprint
and main
and min
and min
patented
available
acquisition
omitted b
private la
records in
Land Ma
agencies
on any st
BLM map
Bureau o
the maps

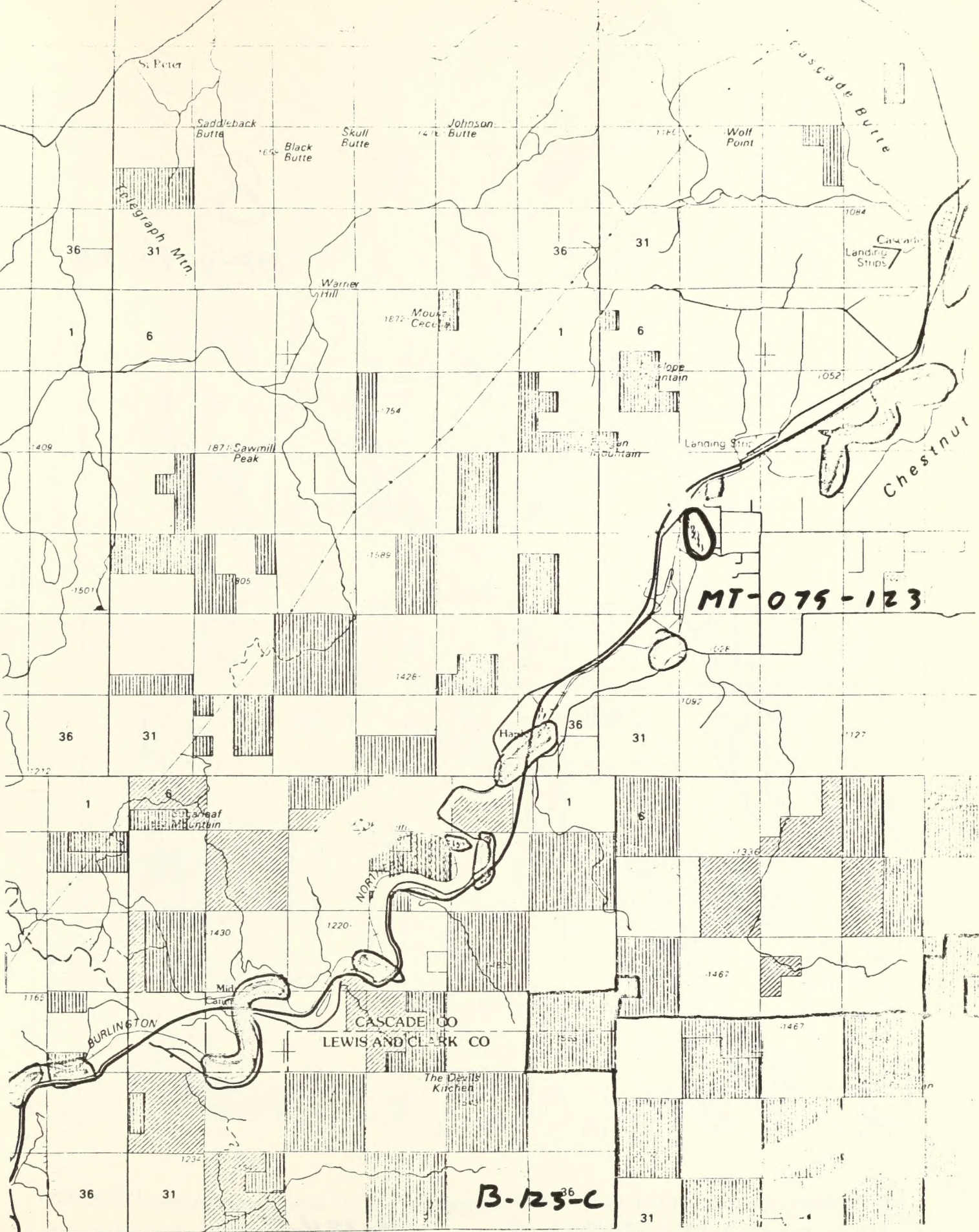


T16N

T 16 N
572

450
T 15 N

5210000mN





Edited and published by the Bureau of Land Management

INDEX TO 1:24 (

Base map prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey

B-125-C

T 23 N

(GREAT FALLS NORTH) 2.

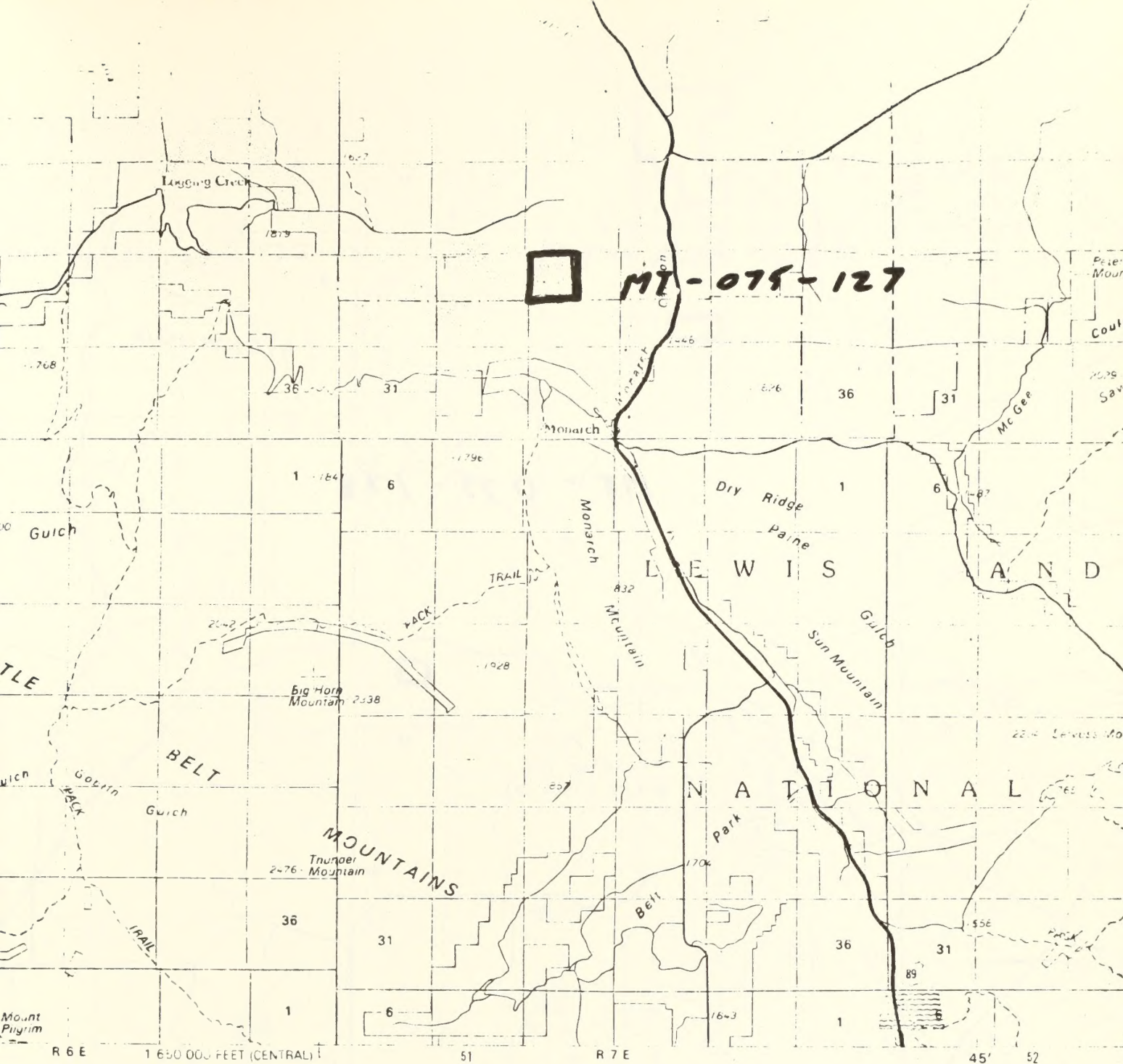
T 22 N

T 21 N

200 000 FEET
(NORTH)

MT-075-126

36
B-126-C



published by the Bureau of Land Management

prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey
 1976 from USGS 1:24 000 and 1:62 500-scale topographic maps
 1973. See index for dates of individual maps

revised from aerial photographs taken 1975
 information not field checked Map edited 1978

10 000-meter grid, zone 12: Universal
 Mercator

grid ticks based on Montana coordinate
 and north zones. 1927 North American datum

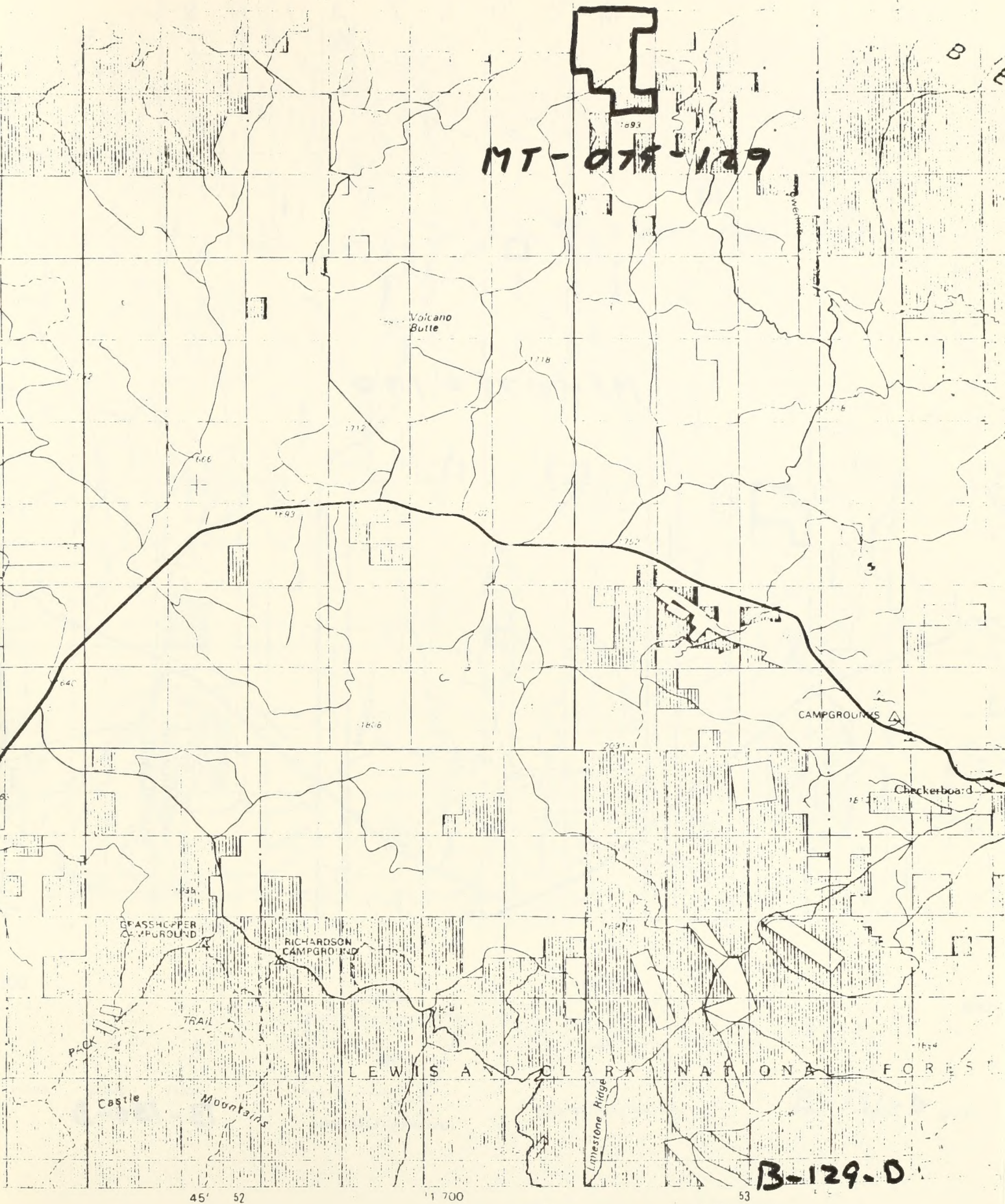
boundaries represent proclamation lines
 possibly imply Federal jurisdiction

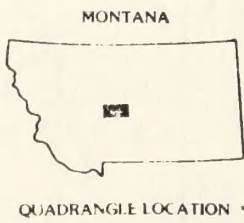
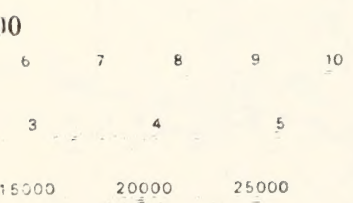
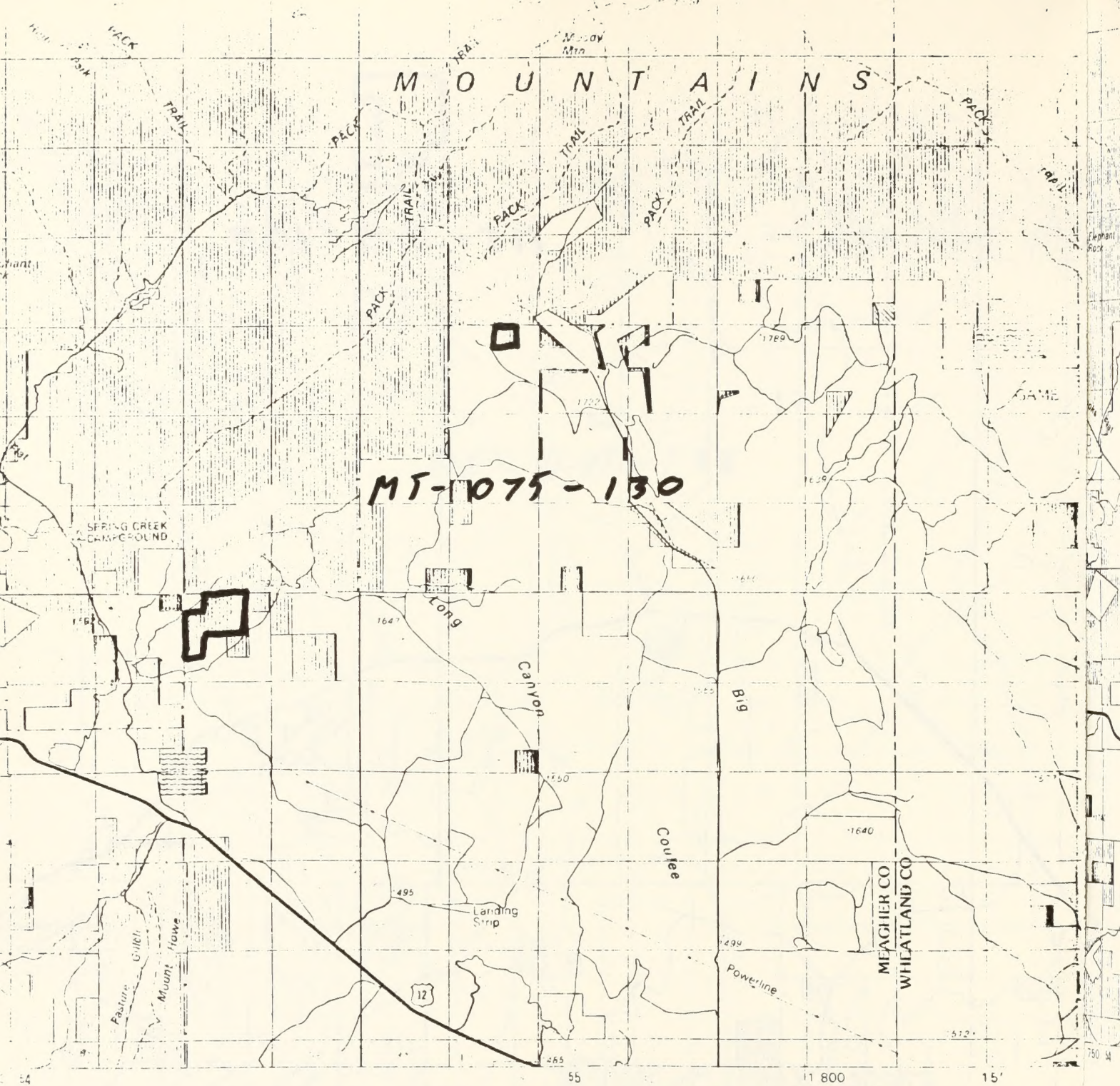
INDEX TO 1:24 000 AND 1:62 500-SCALE MAPS

	2	3	4	5	6	7
1		8	9	10	11	12
						13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
						21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
						29

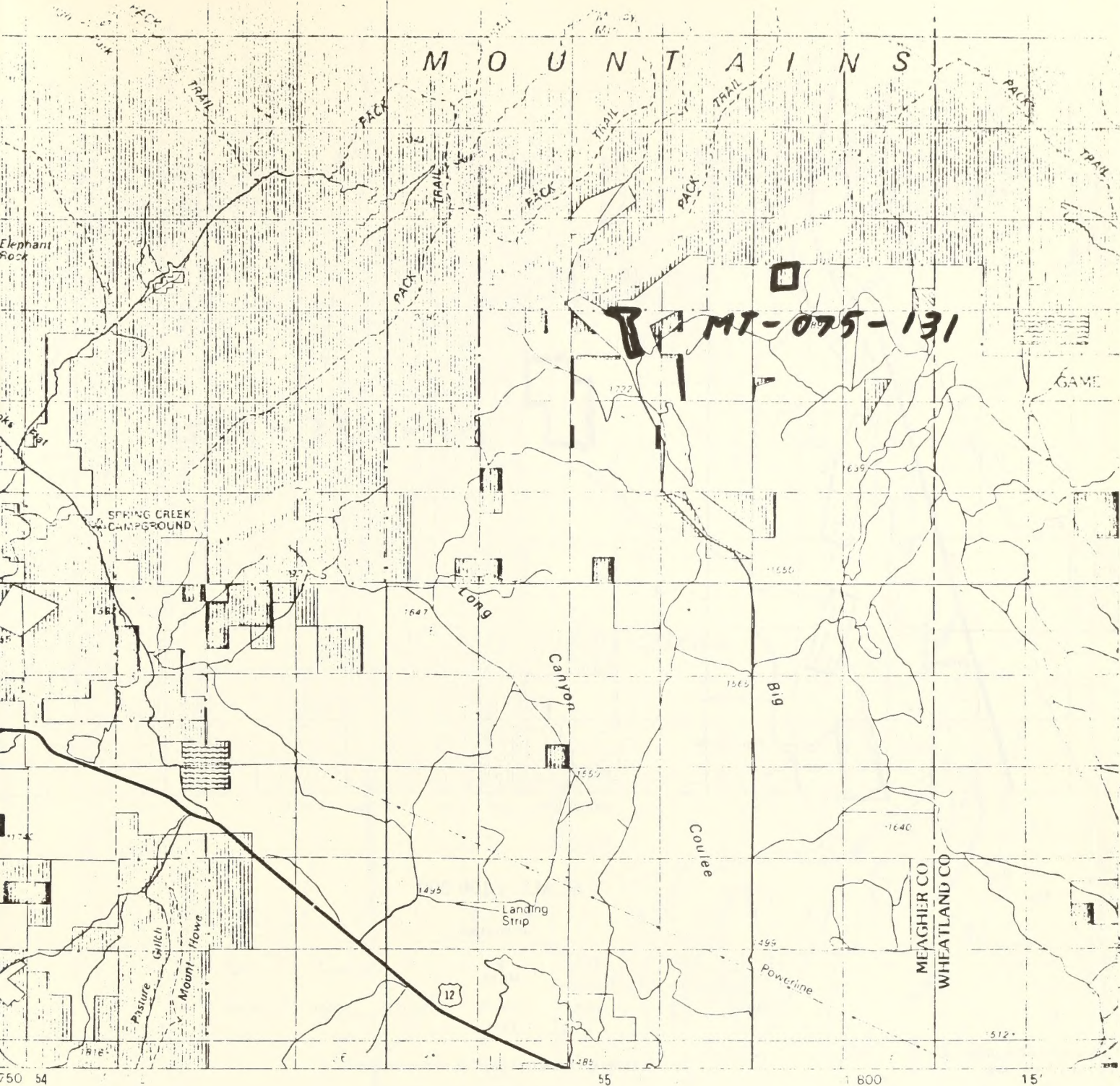
1	Belt-1956	16	Little
2	Highwood Basin-1970	17	Thompson
3	Arrow Peak-1973	18	Woods
4	Fairview Butte-1973	19	Mc
5	Biggs Flat-1973	20	Shaw
6	Flower-1973	21	St
7	Strout Island-1973	22	Thompson
8	Ray's Island-1973	23	Mc
9	Byrne Creek-1973	24	Far
10	Glynn-1973	25	Mix
11	Lemberg Coulee-1973	26	Woods
12	Arrow Creek-1973	27	Woods
13	Coffee Creek-1973	28	Woods
14	Riceville-1967	29	Ben
15	Monarch NE-1967		

B-127-D

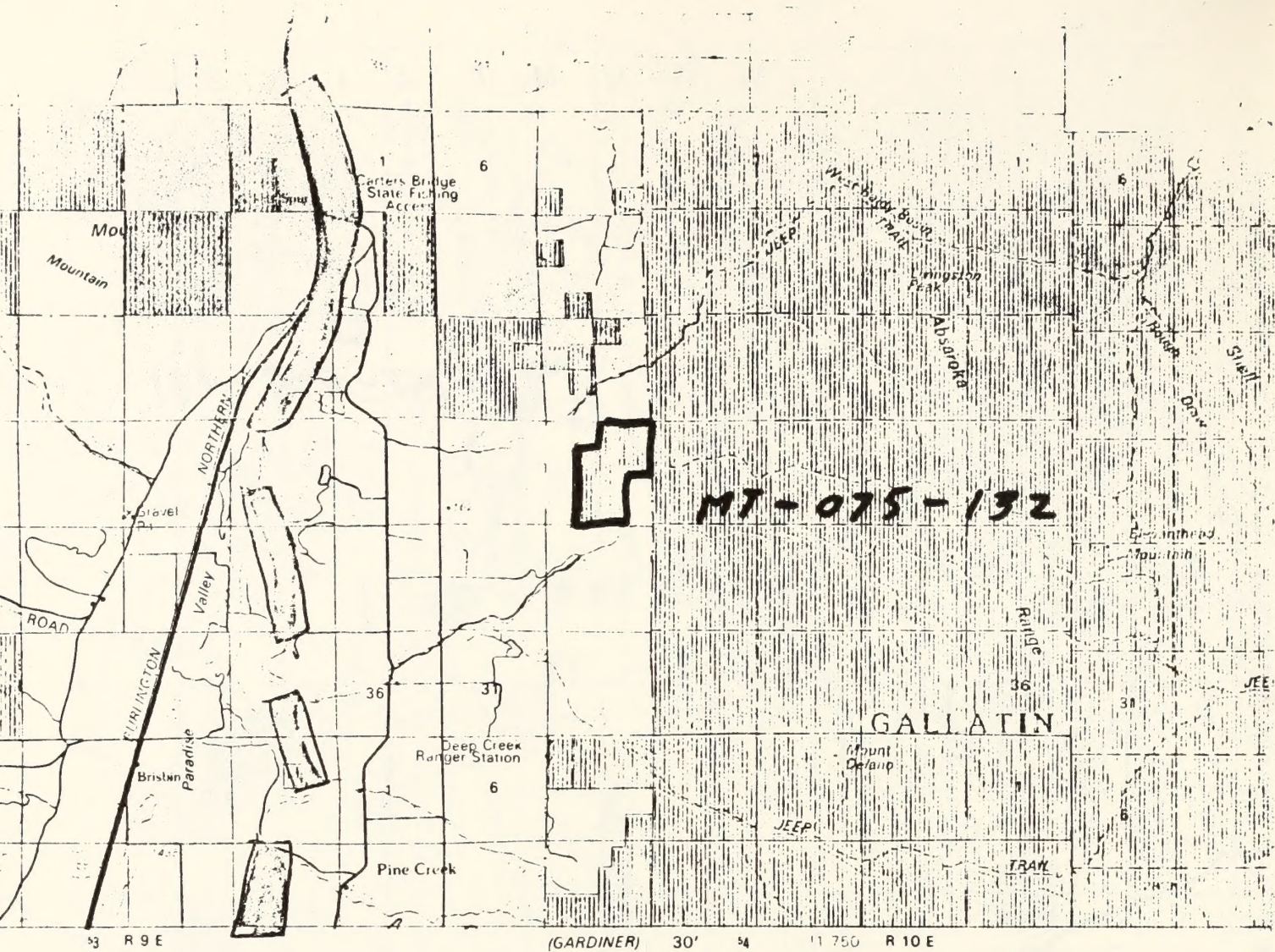


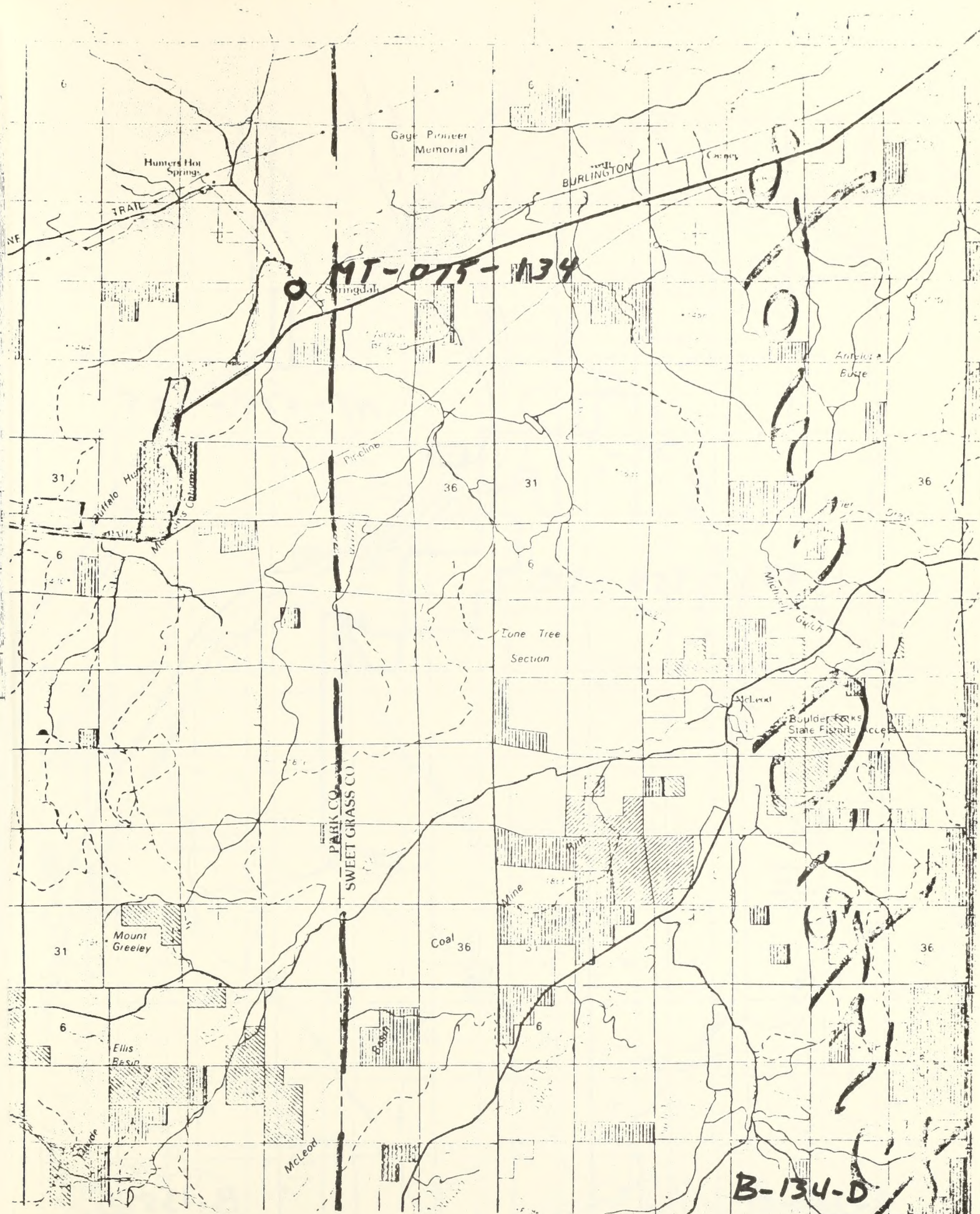


B-130-D

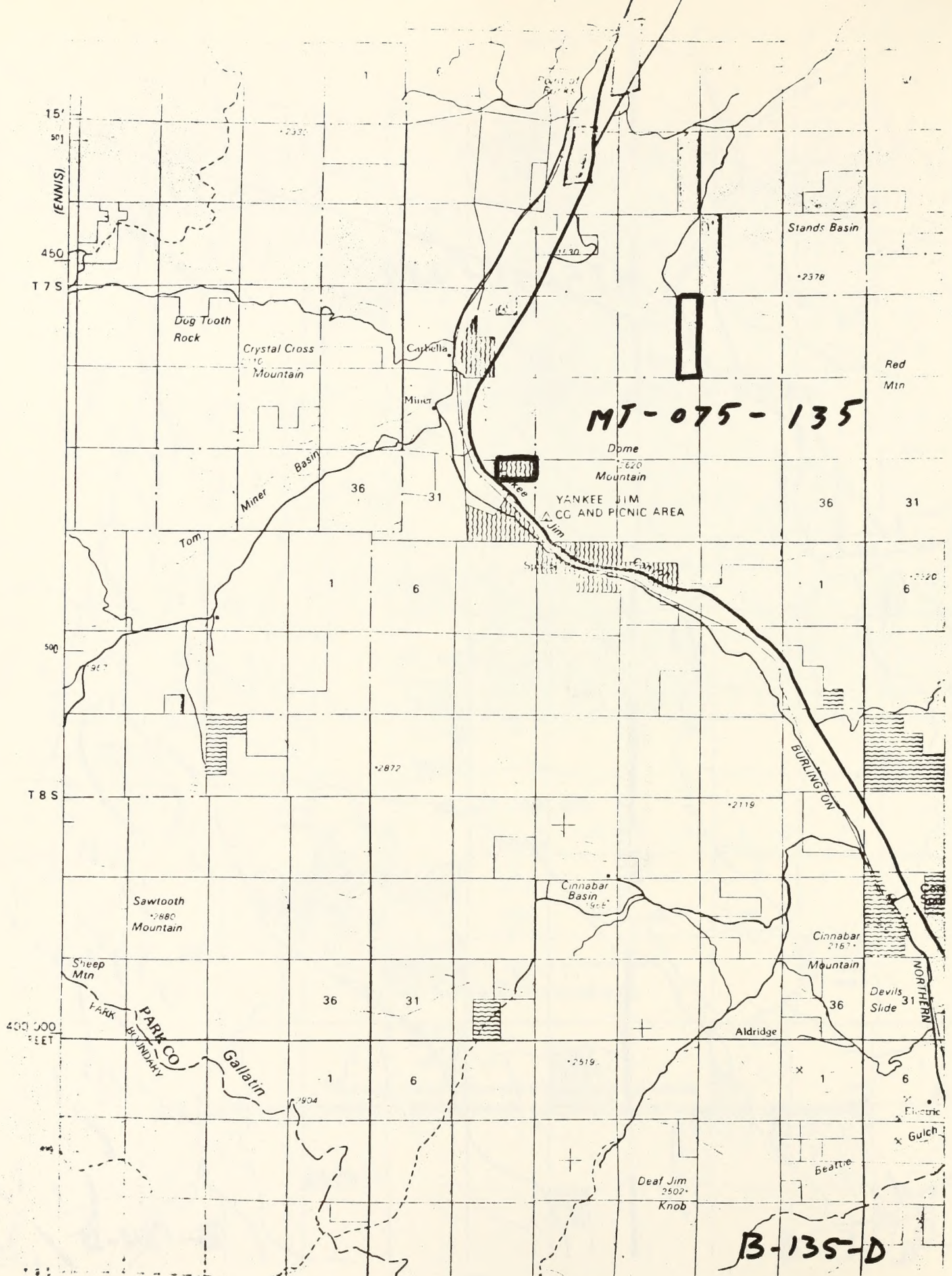


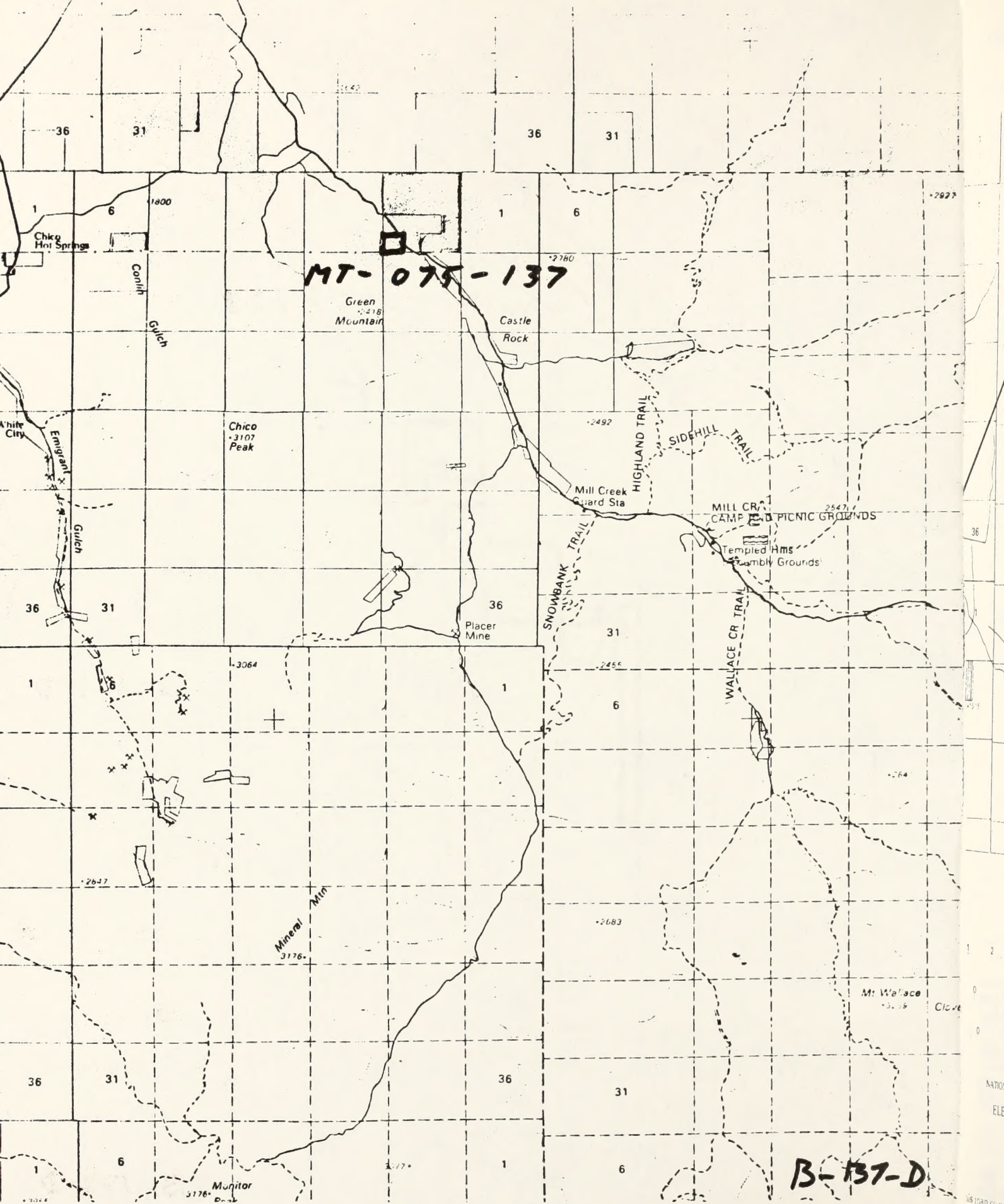
B-131-D

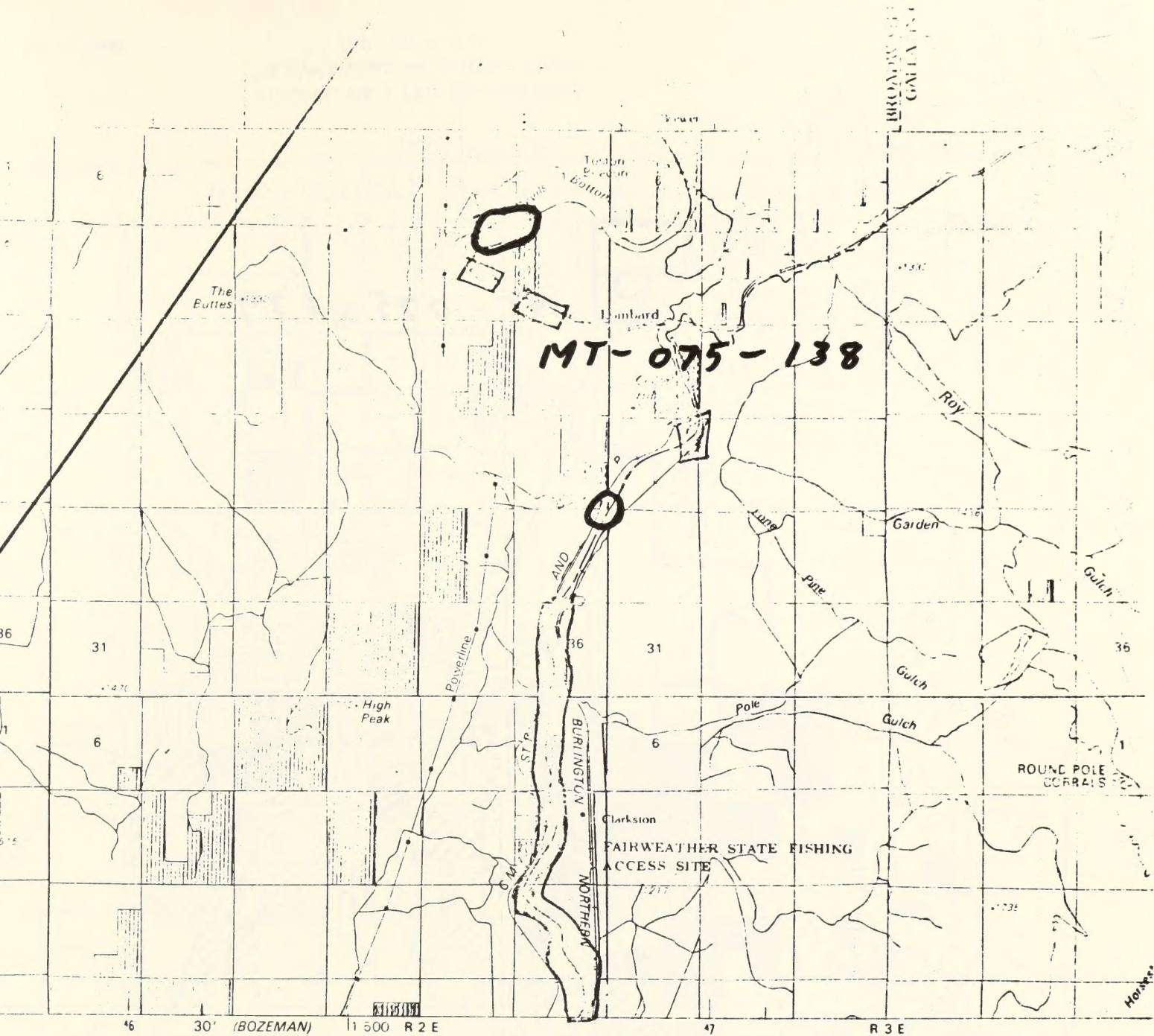




B-134-D







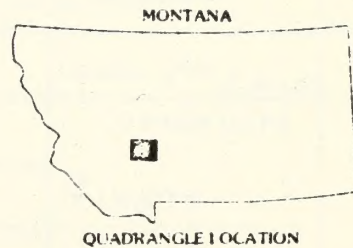
SCALE 1:100 000

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
KILOMETERS

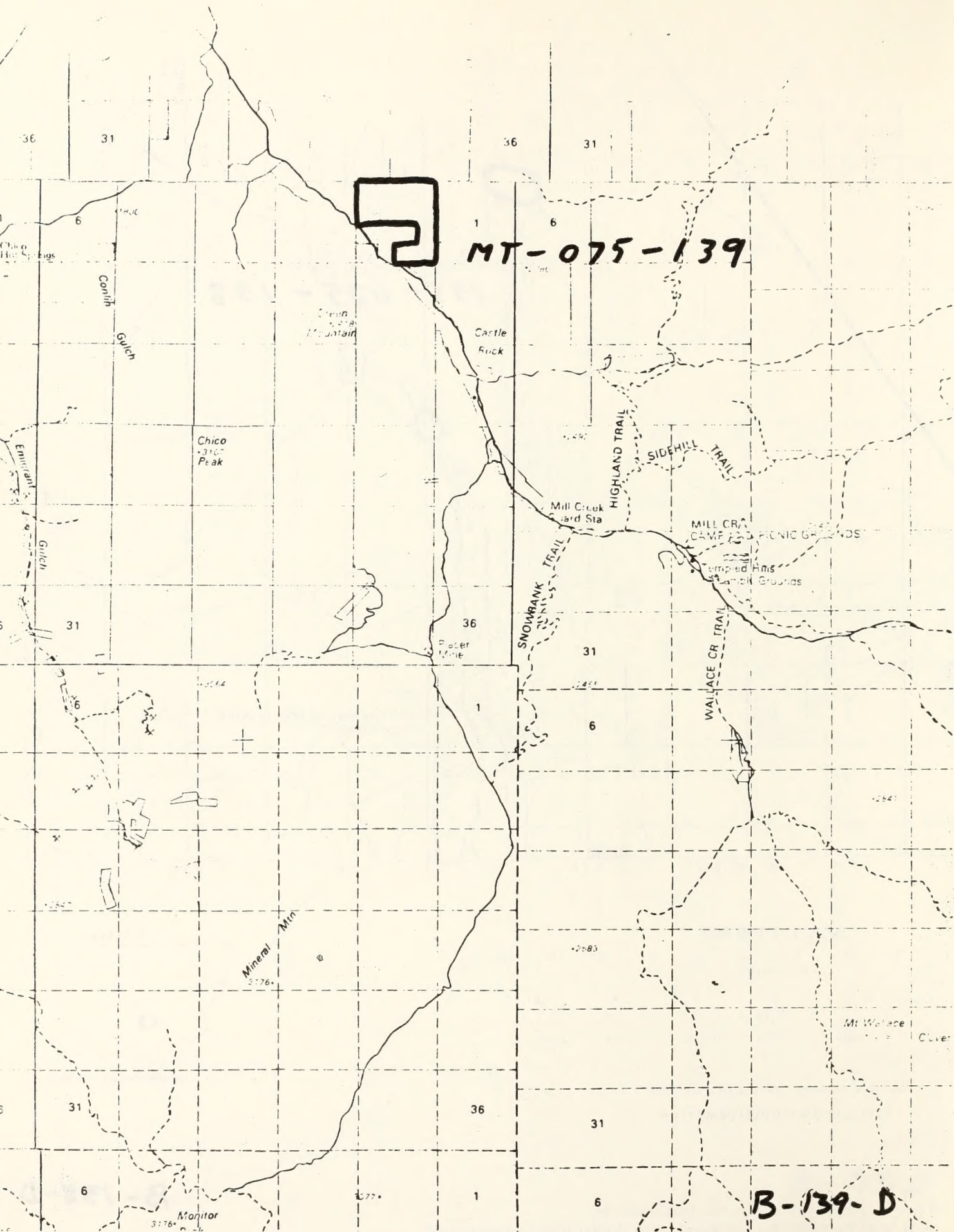
0 1 2 3 4 5
MILES
0 5000 10000 15000 20000 25000
FEET

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

ELEVATIONS SHOWN IN METERS



B-138-D



MT-075-139

B-139-D

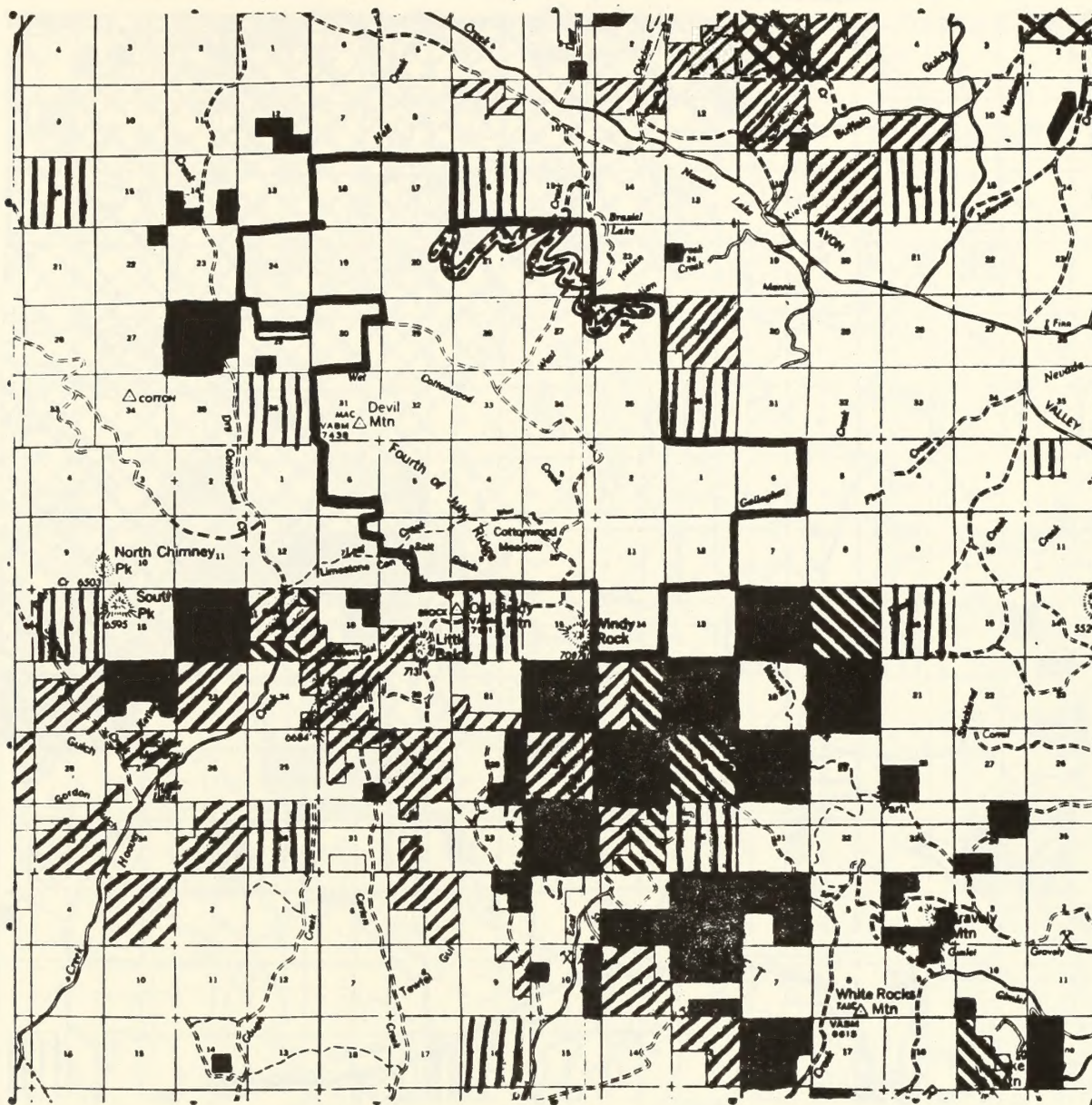
(April 1962)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MAP Hoodo

Serial Number
MT-074-151

Township 10, 11 & 12N , Range 9, 10 & 11W , MONTANA Meridian



LAND OWNERSHIP KEY AND ADDITIONAL TOPOGRAPHIC SYMBOLS

Scale: 1" = 2 MILES

OTHER DATA

	INVENTORY UNIT BOUNDARY		STATE
	ROADS WITHIN UNIT		OTHER PRIVATE
	BURLINGTON NORTHERN		U.S. FOREST SERVICE
	CHAMPION TIMBERLAND		
	OTHER PUBLIC LANDS		

↑ NORTH

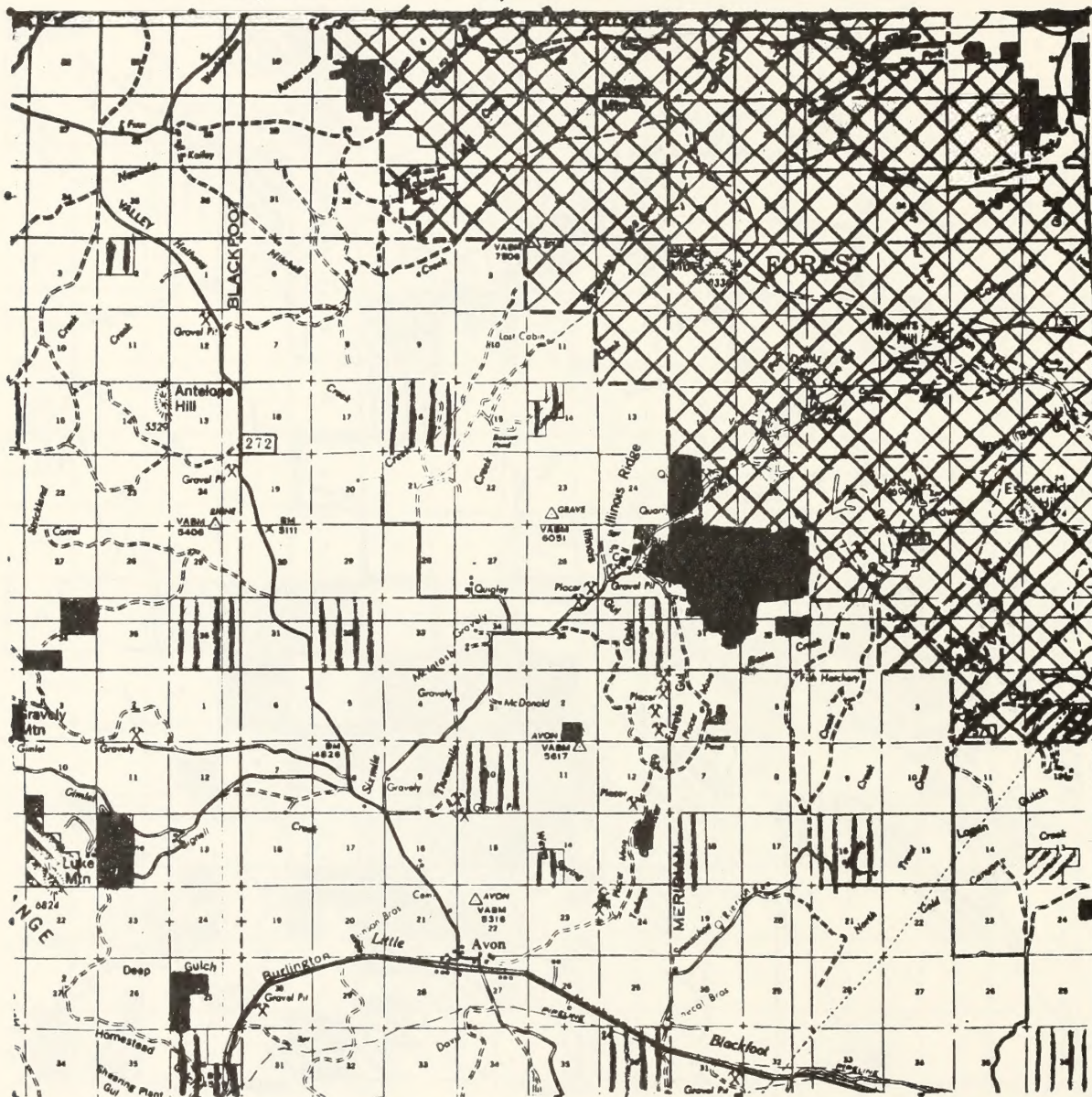
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MAP NEVADA MTN. TACKON

Serial Number
MT-074-152

Township 10, 11, 12 N., Range 7, 8, 9 W., MONTANA

Meridian



LAND OWNERSHIP KEY AND ADDITIONAL TOPOGRAPHIC SYMBOLS

Scale: 1" = 2 MILES

OTHER DATA

↑ NORTH

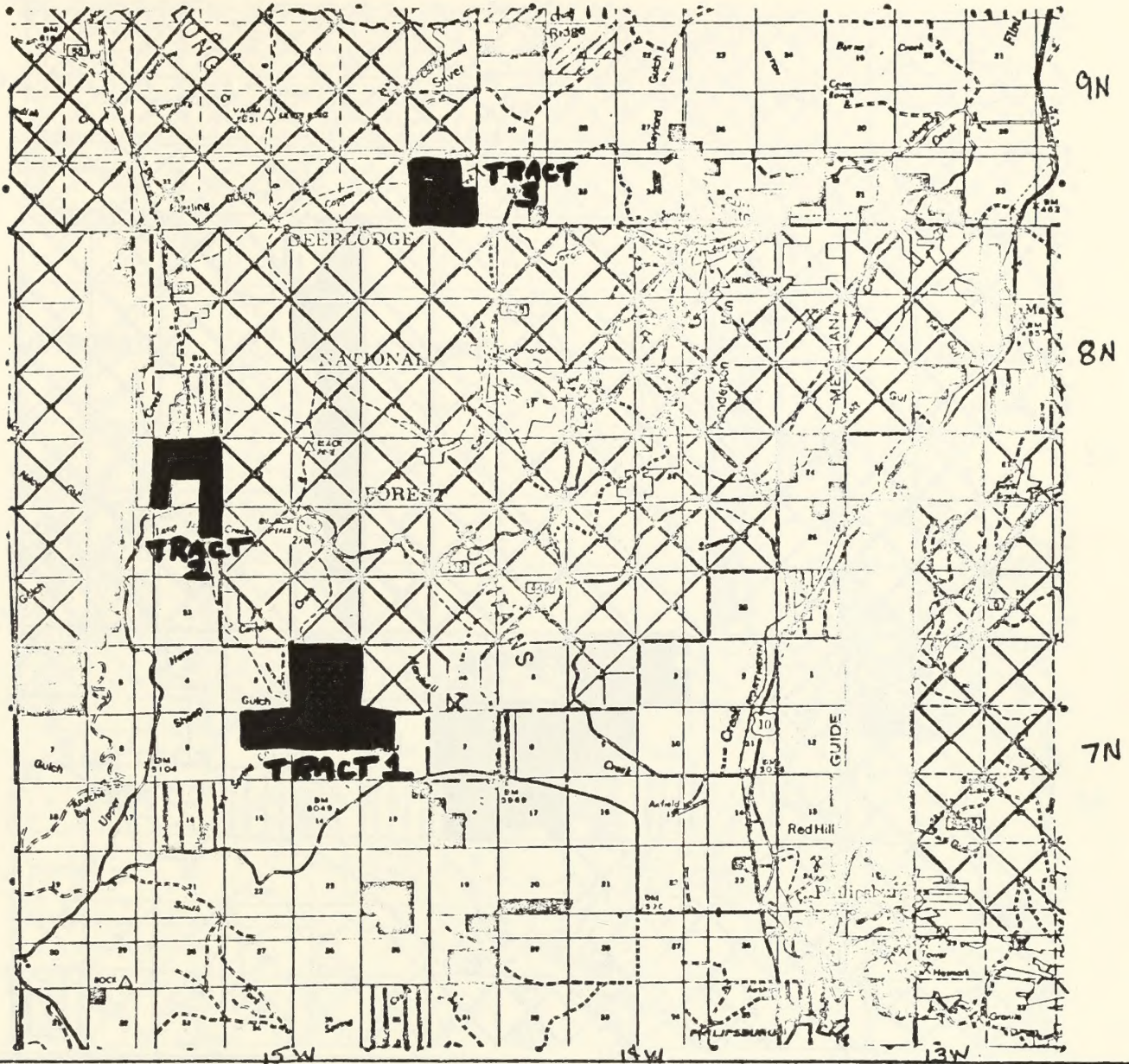
	INVENTORY UNIT BOUNDARY		U.S. FOREST SERVICE
	PUBLIC LAND		OTHER PRIVATE
	BURLINGTON NORTHERN		
	CHAMPION TIMBER LAND		
	STATE		

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MAP SILVER KING TACKONS

Serial Number
MT-074-153

Township 7, 8, 9N, Range 13, 14, 15W, MONTANA Meridian



LAND OWNERSHIP KEY AND ADDITIONAL TOPOGRAPHIC SYMBOLS

Scale: 1" = 2 MILES

OTHER DATA

↑ North

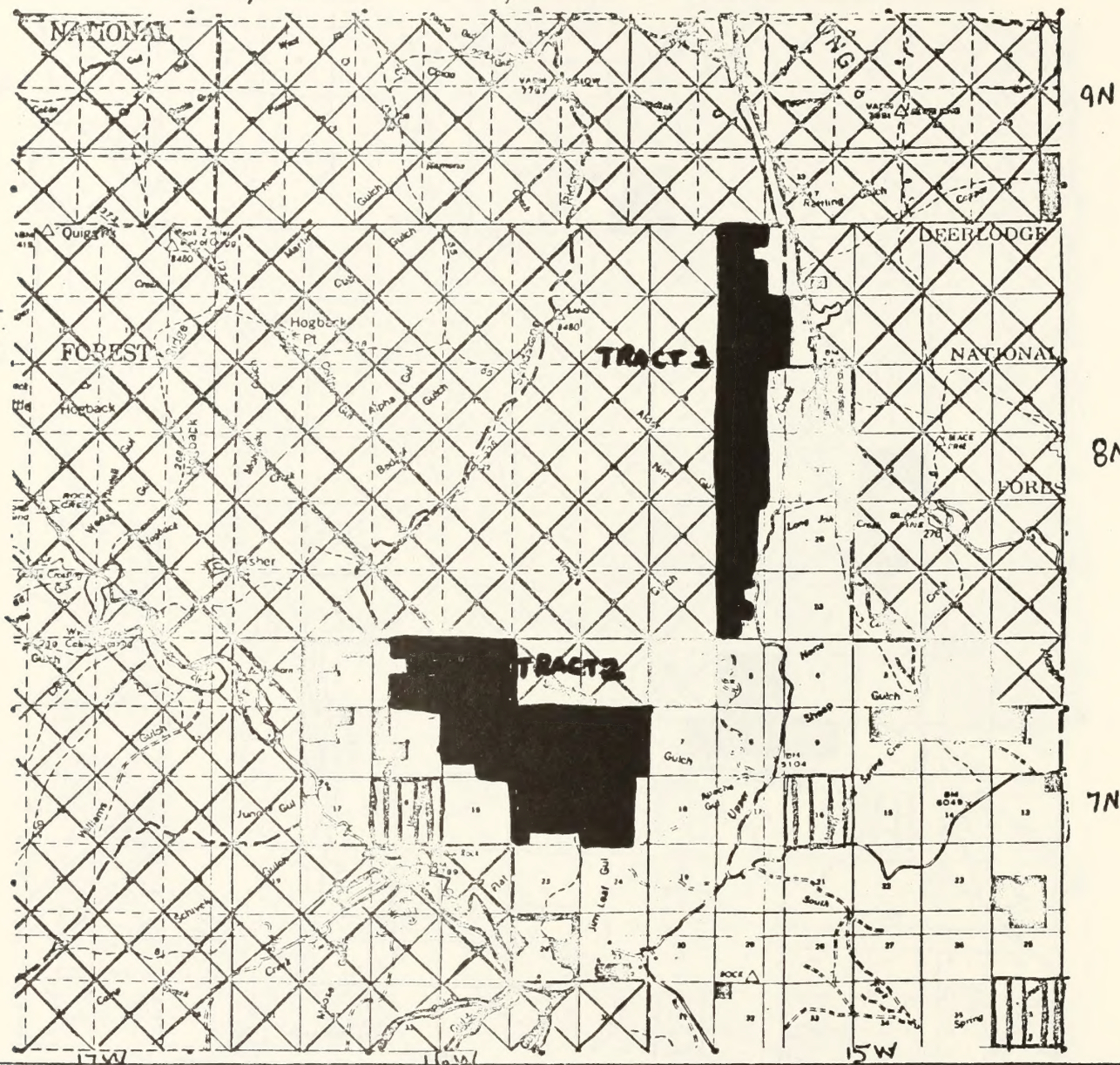
	PUBLIC LAND TACKON		PRIVATE
	OTHER PUBLIC LAND		
	CHAMPION TIMBERLAND		
	STATE		
	U.S. FOREST SERVICE		

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MAP QUIGG EAST TACKONS

Serial Number
MT 074 154

Township 7, 8 & 9N, Range 15, 16 & 17W, MONTANA Meridian



LAND OWNERSHIP KEY AND ADDITIONAL TOPOGRAPHIC SYMBOLS

	QUIGG EAST PUBLIC LAND TACKONS		
	OTHER PUBLIC LANDS		
	STATE		
	U.S. FOREST SERVICE		
	PRIVATE		

Scale: 1" = 2 MILES

OTHER DATA

↑ North

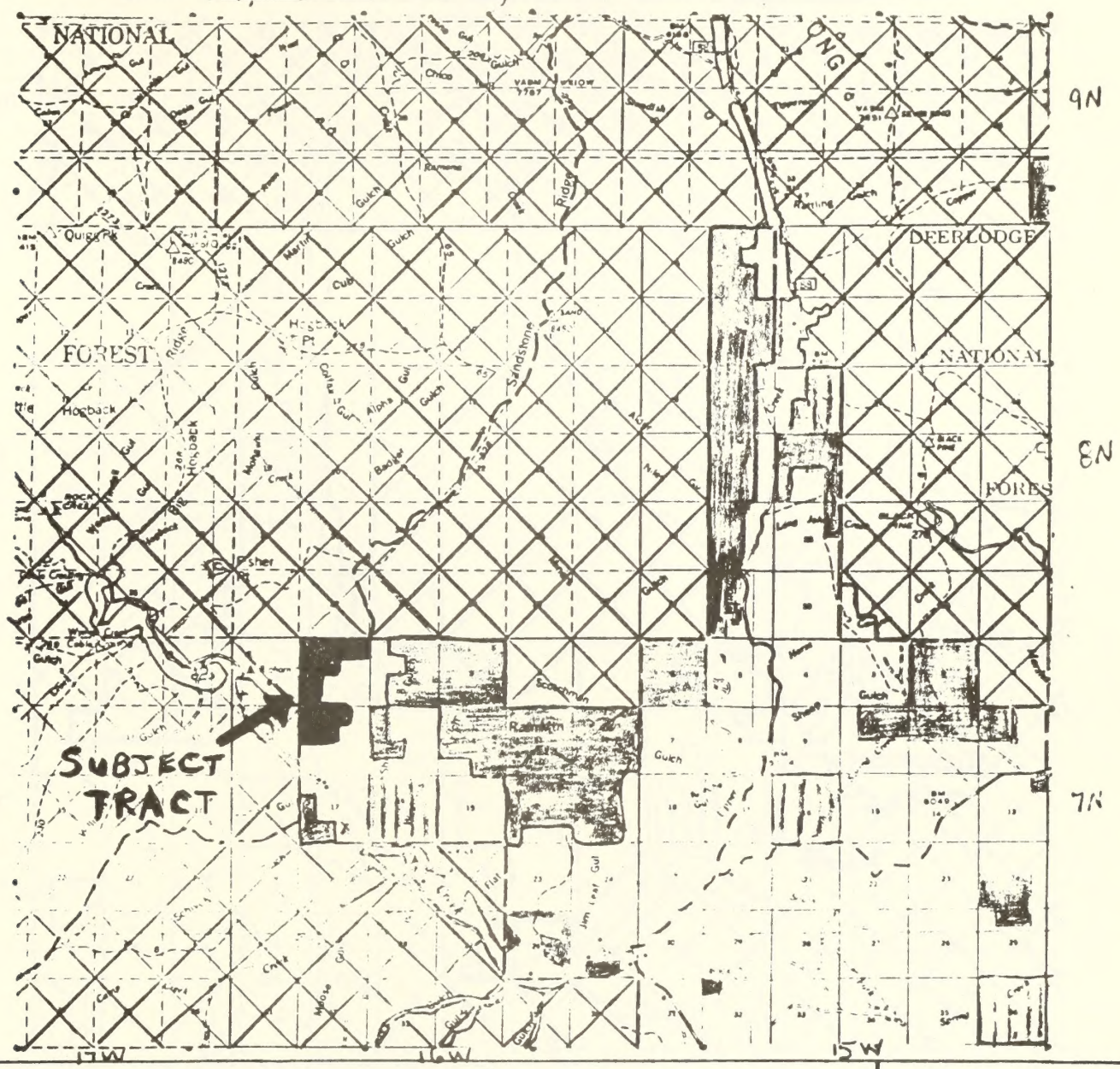
10-14996
April 1962)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MAP QUIGG WEST TACKON

Serial Number
MT 074 155

Township 7, 8 & 9N, Range 15, 16 & 17W, MONTANA Meridian



LAND OWNERSHIP KEY AND ADDITIONAL TOPOGRAPHIC SYMBOLS

Scale: 1" = 2 MILES

OTHER DATA

↑ North

	QUIGG WEST PUBLIC LAND TACKON		
	OTHER PUBLIC LANDS		
	STATE		
	U.S. FOREST SERVICE		
	PRIVATE		

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

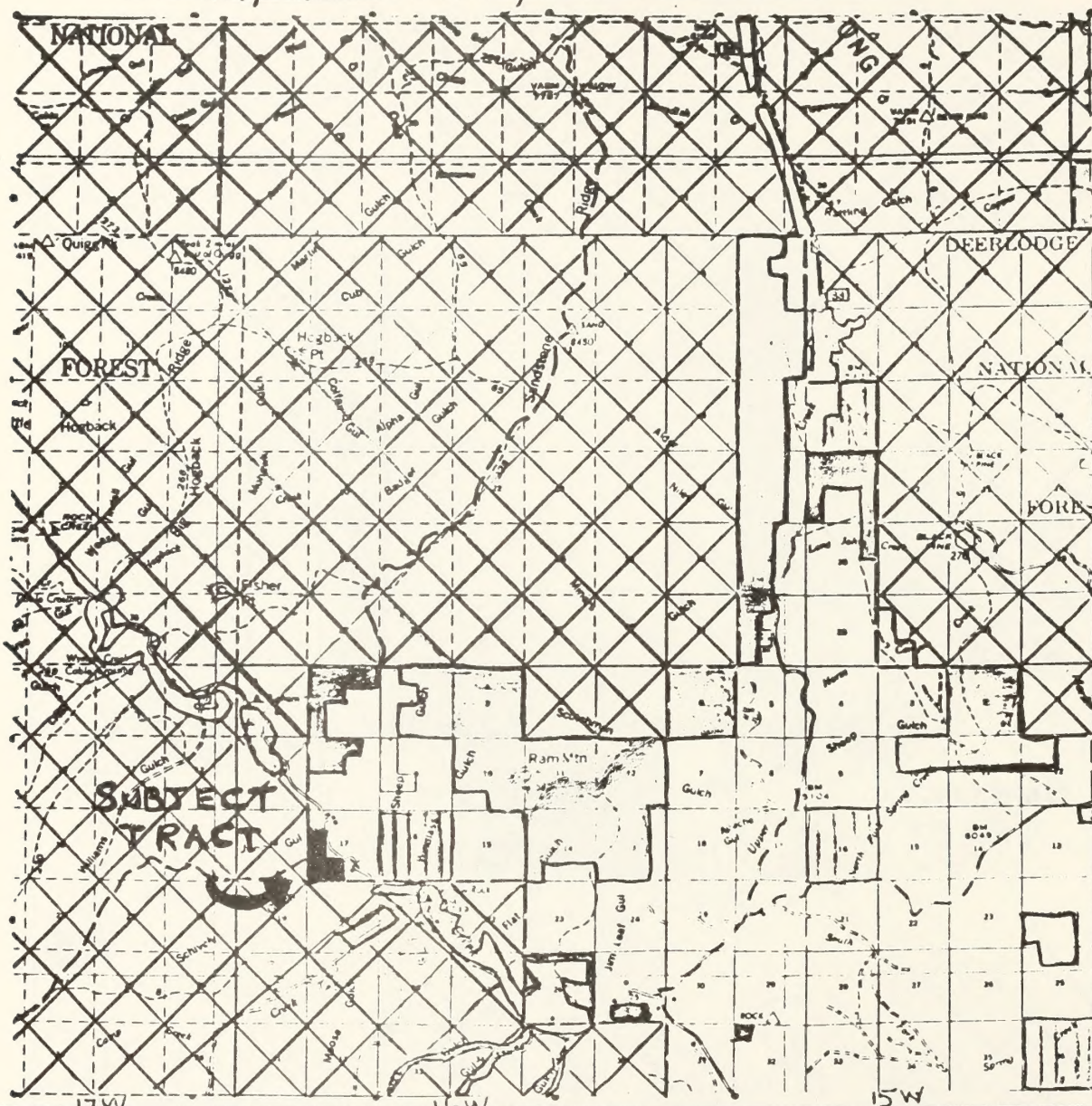
MAP STONY MTN TACKON

Serial Number

MT 074 156

Township 7, 8 & 9N, Range 15, 16 & 17W, MONTANA

Meridian



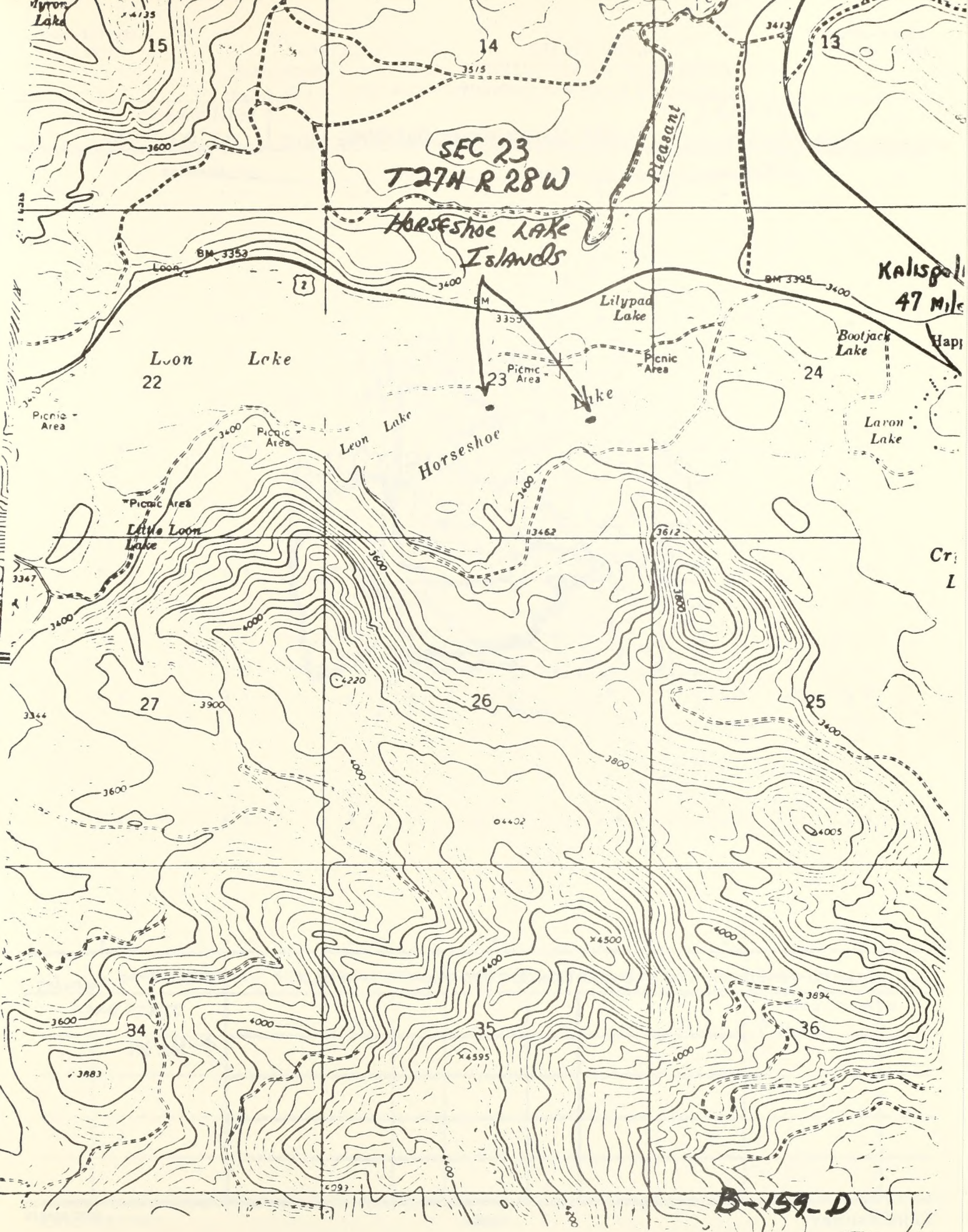
LAND OWNERSHIP KEY AND ADDITIONAL TOPOGRAPHIC SYMBOLS

	STONY MTN
	PUBLIC LAND TACKONS
	OTHER PUBLIC LANDS
	STATE
	U.S. FOREST SERVICE
	PRIVATE

Scale: 1" = 2 MILES

OTHER DATA

↑ North



Serial Number
AT 074 170

MAP BLACKFOOT PLANNING UNIT

Township _____, Range _____, _____ Meridian



LAND OWNERSHIP KEY AND ADDITIONAL TOPOGRAPHIC SYMBOLS

Scale: 1" = 16 miles

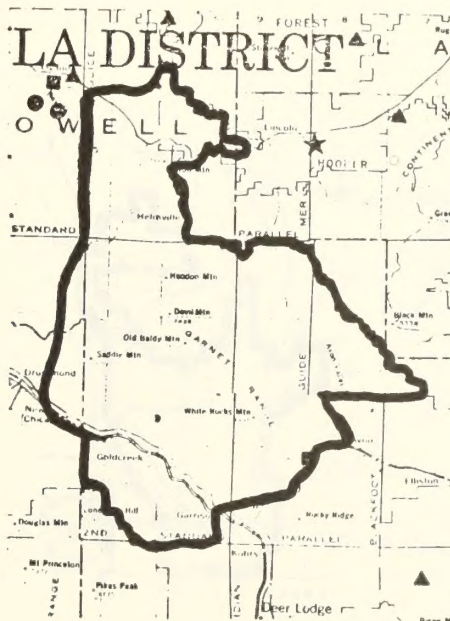
OTHER DATA

↑ North

MAP HOODOO PLANNING UNIT

MT074 171

Township _____, Range _____, _____ Meridian



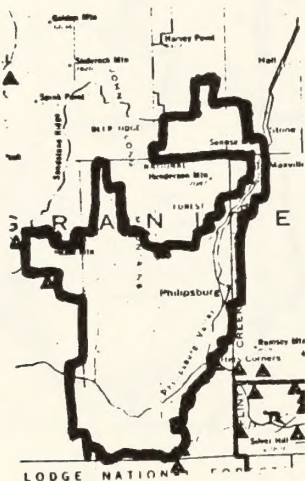
LAND OWNERSHIP KEY AND ADDITIONAL TOPOGRAPHIC SYMBOLS				Scale: 1" = 16 miles
				OTHER DATA
				↑ North

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MAP PHILIPSBURG PLANNING UNIT

Serial Number
MT 074 172

Township _____, Range _____, Meridian _____



LAND OWNERSHIP KEY AND ADDITIONAL TOPOGRAPHIC SYMBOLS

Scale: 1" = 16 miles

OTHER DATA

↑ North

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MAP AVON PLANNING UNIT

Serial Number

MT 074 173

Township _____, Range _____, Meridian _____



LAND OWNERSHIP KEY AND ADDITIONAL TOPOGRAPHIC SYMBOLS

Scale: 1" = 16 miles

OTHER DATA

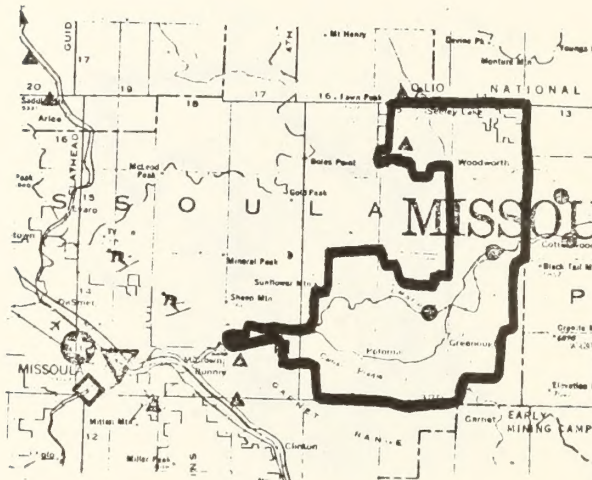
↑ North

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MAP SALMON LAKE PLANNING UNIT

Serial Number
MT 074 174

Township _____, Range _____, Meridian _____



LAND OWNERSHIP KEY AND ADDITIONAL TOPOGRAPHIC SYMBOLS

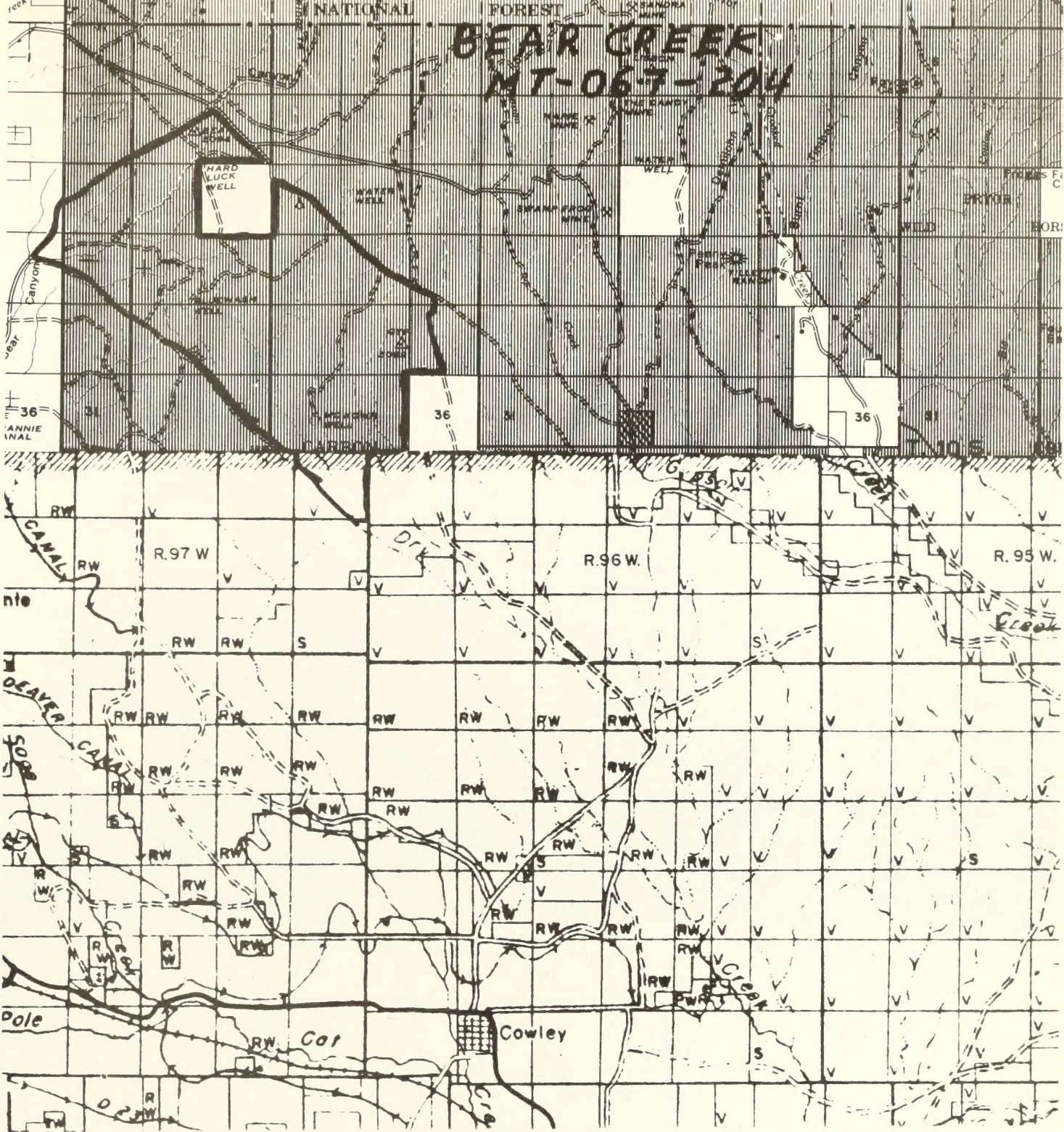
Scale: 1" = 16 MILES

OTHER DATA

↑ North

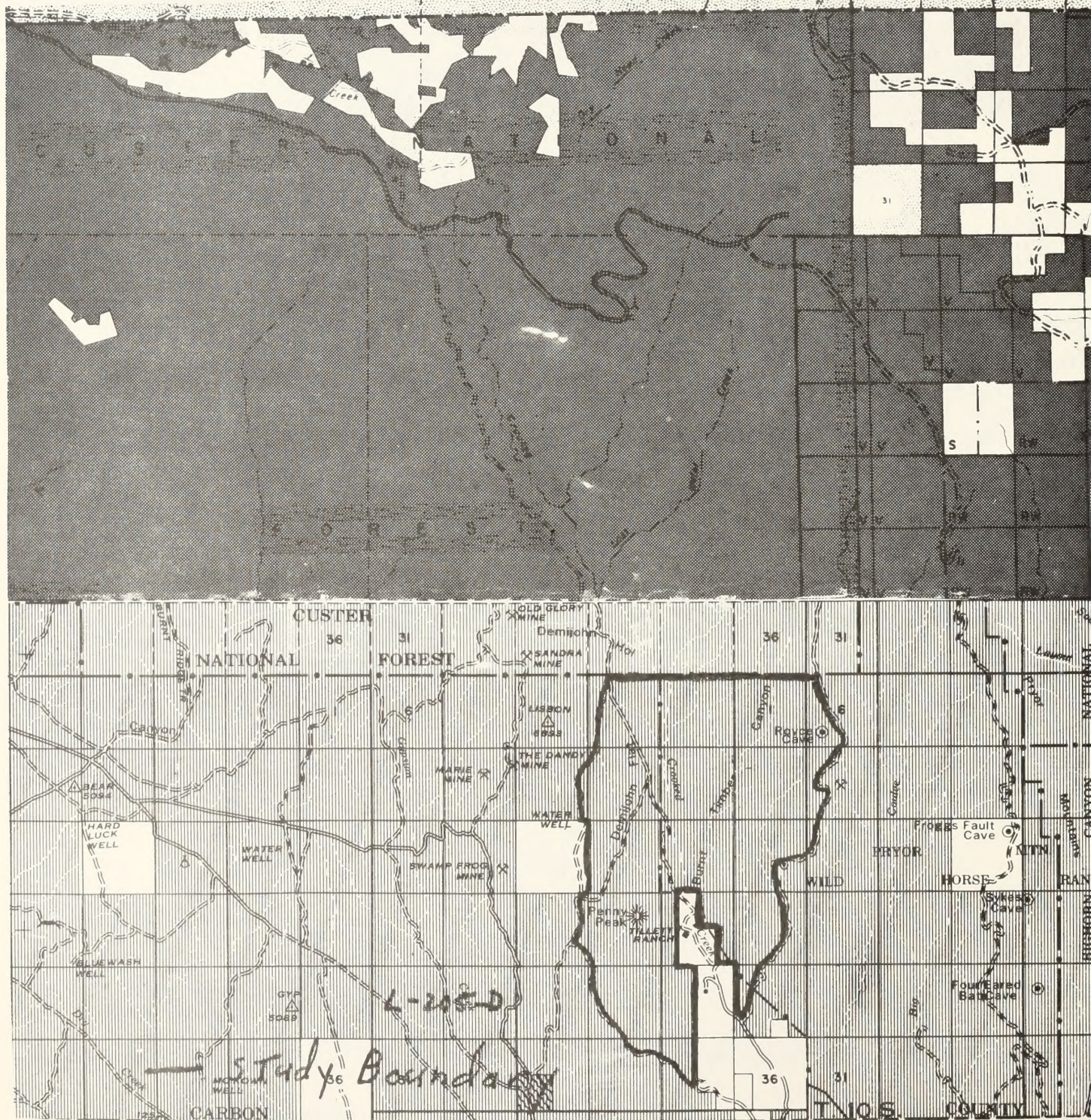
**Lewistown District
Inventory Unit Maps**

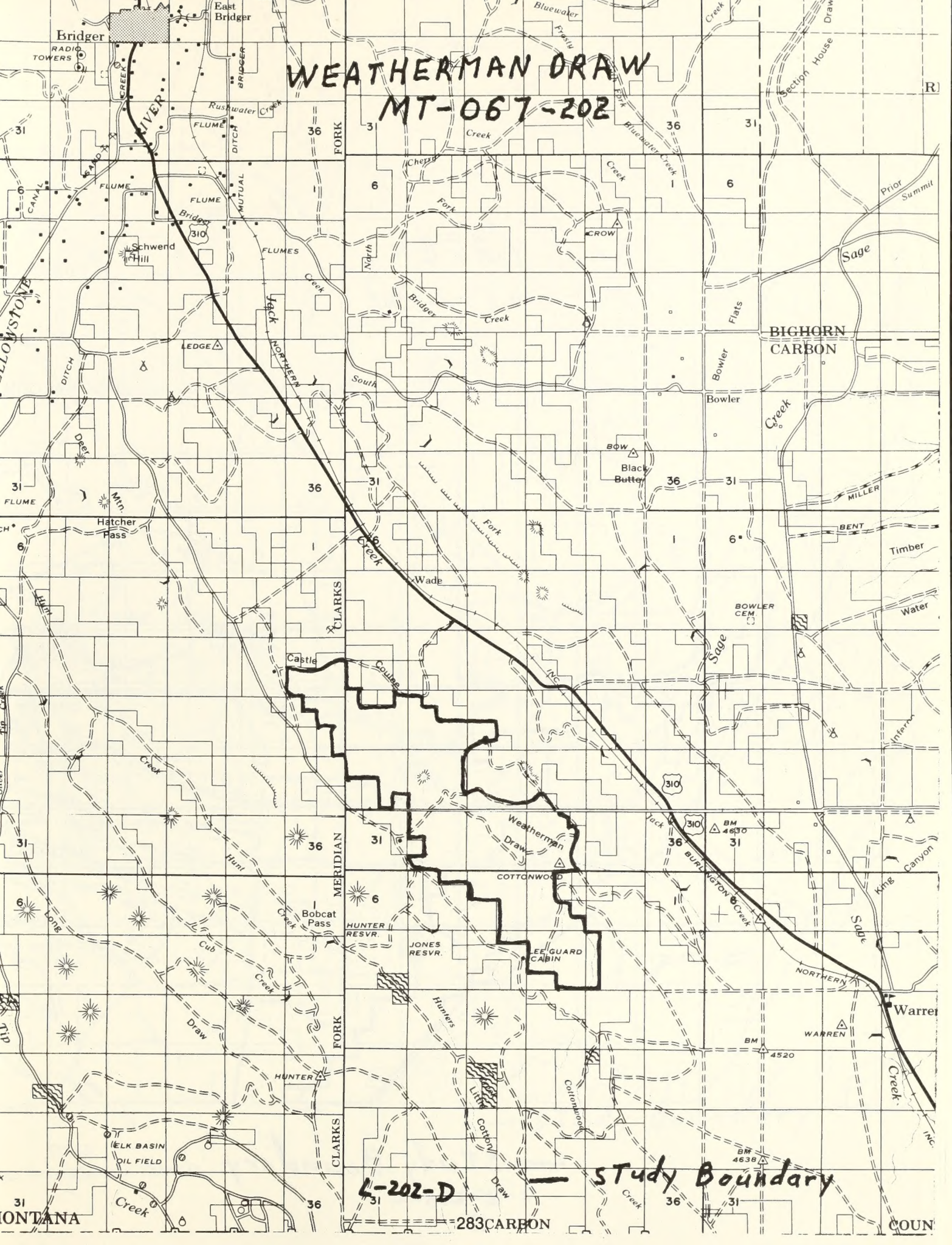
36
6
Rock
Bench
31
6
CLEAR
CR
SCH
CLEAR
CEM
Creek
6
31
BIPPH
WIRE
6
Coulée
SMITH
MINING
Foster
Snake
Bench
Way
Tiger
Dunorth Bench
A
South
Cove
Park



L-204-C

MT-067-205



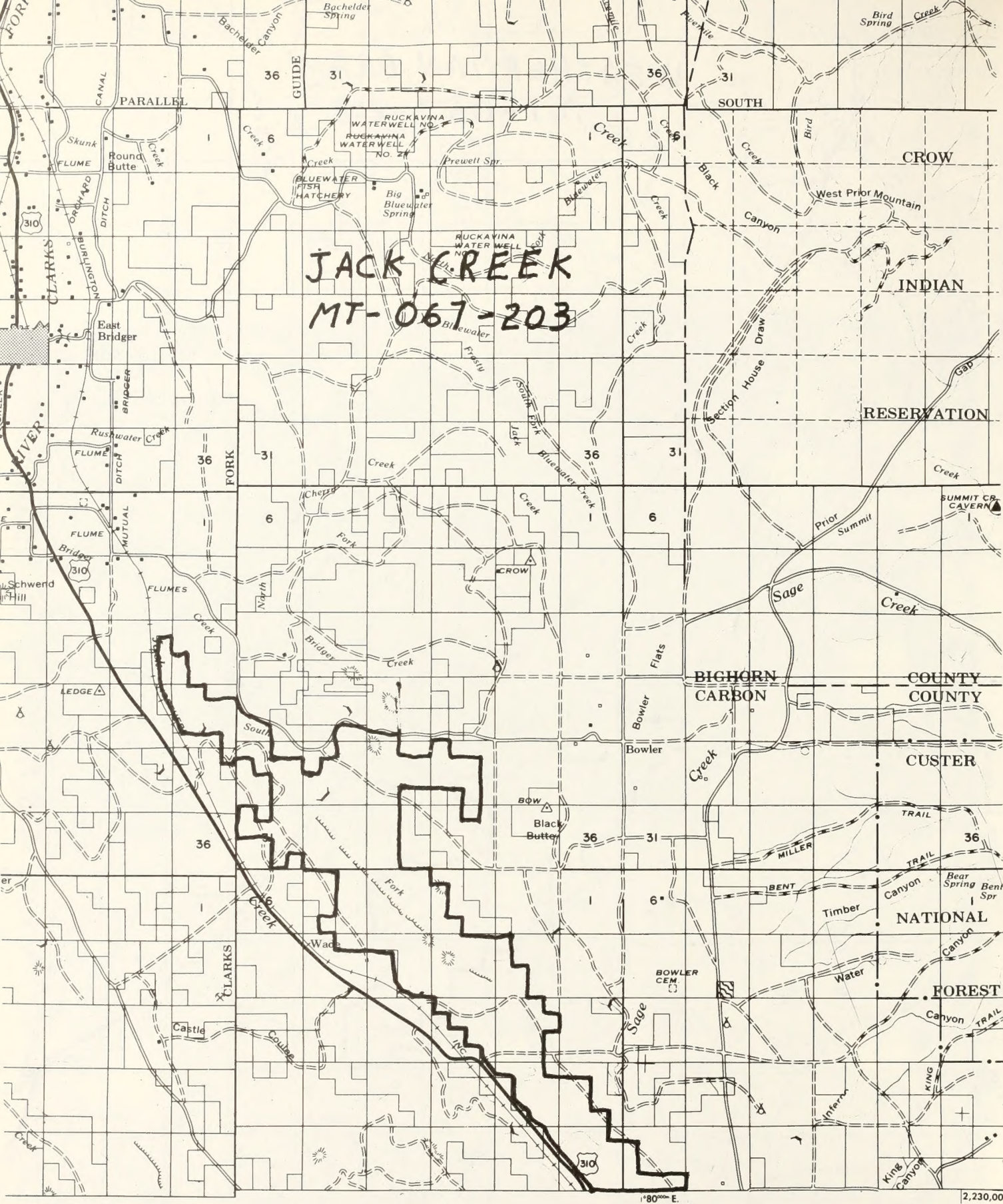


WEATHERMAN DRAW
MT-067-202

4-202-D

STUDY BOUNDARY

283 CARBON



— Study Boundary
L-203-c

SE-27
SURFACE MANAGEMENT QUA

BEAR CREEK
MT-067-204

NATIONAL FOREST

BEAR CREEK

MT-067-204

BEAR CREEK NATIONAL FOREST

BEAR CREEK RIVER

BEAR CREEK CANYON

BEAR CREEK MINE

BEAR CREEK WATER WELL

BEAR CREEK SWAMP

BEAR CREEK RANCH

BEAR CREEK RESERVOIR

BEAR CREEK DAM

Cowley

R. 97 W.

R. 96 W.

R. 95 W.

Section 36, 31, 21

ANNEAL

DEAVER

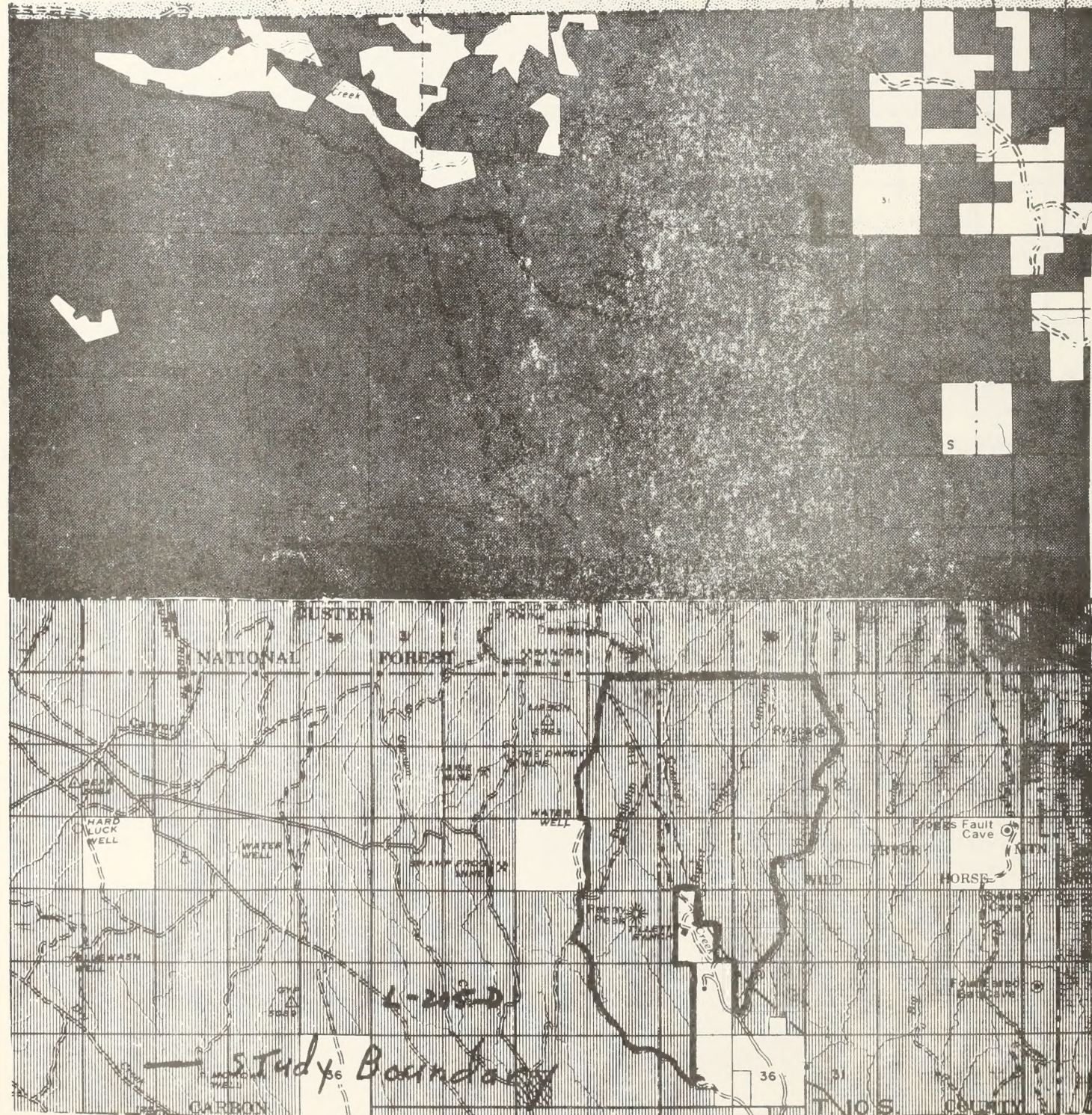
SOLE

Cor

0.2

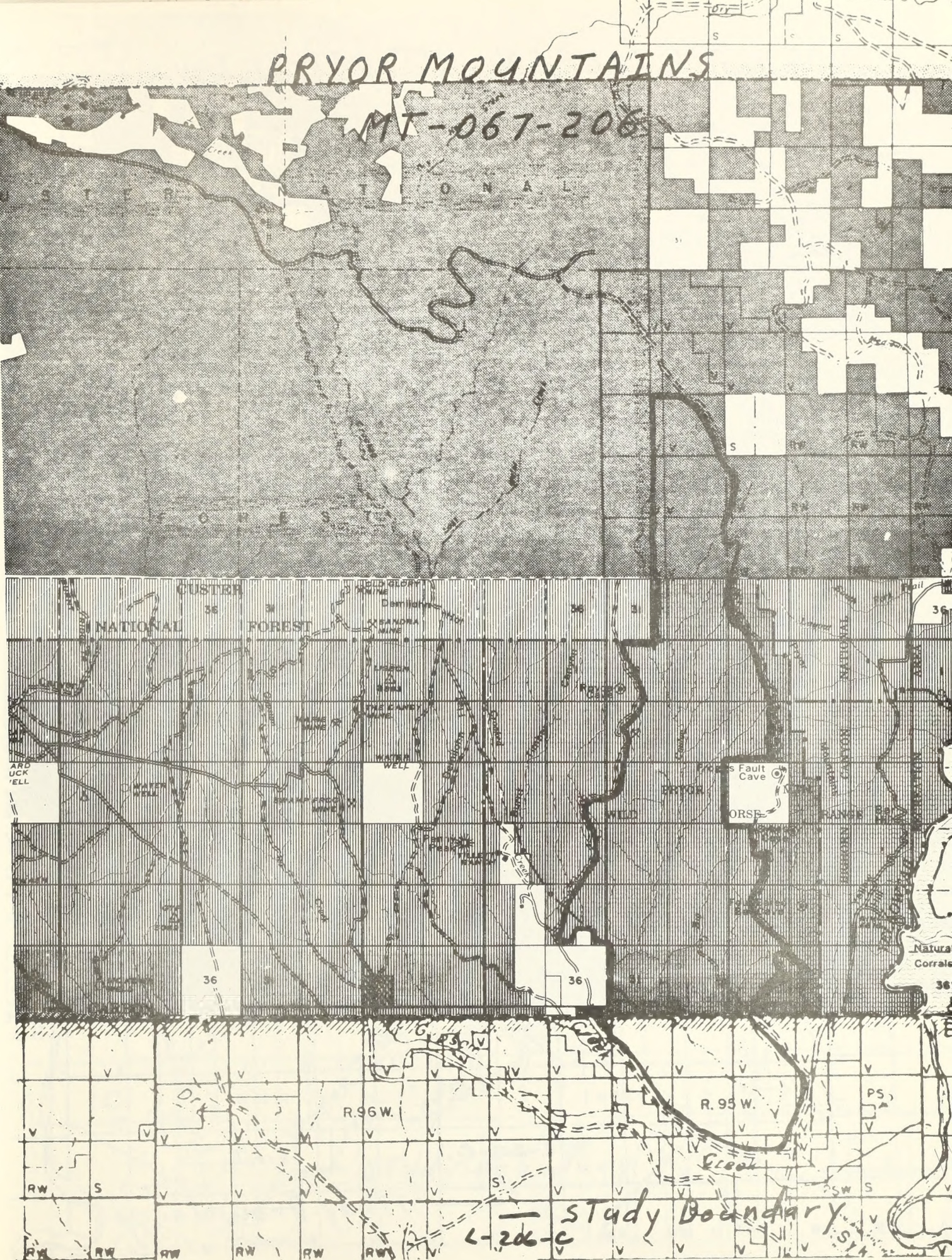
L-204-C

MT-067-205

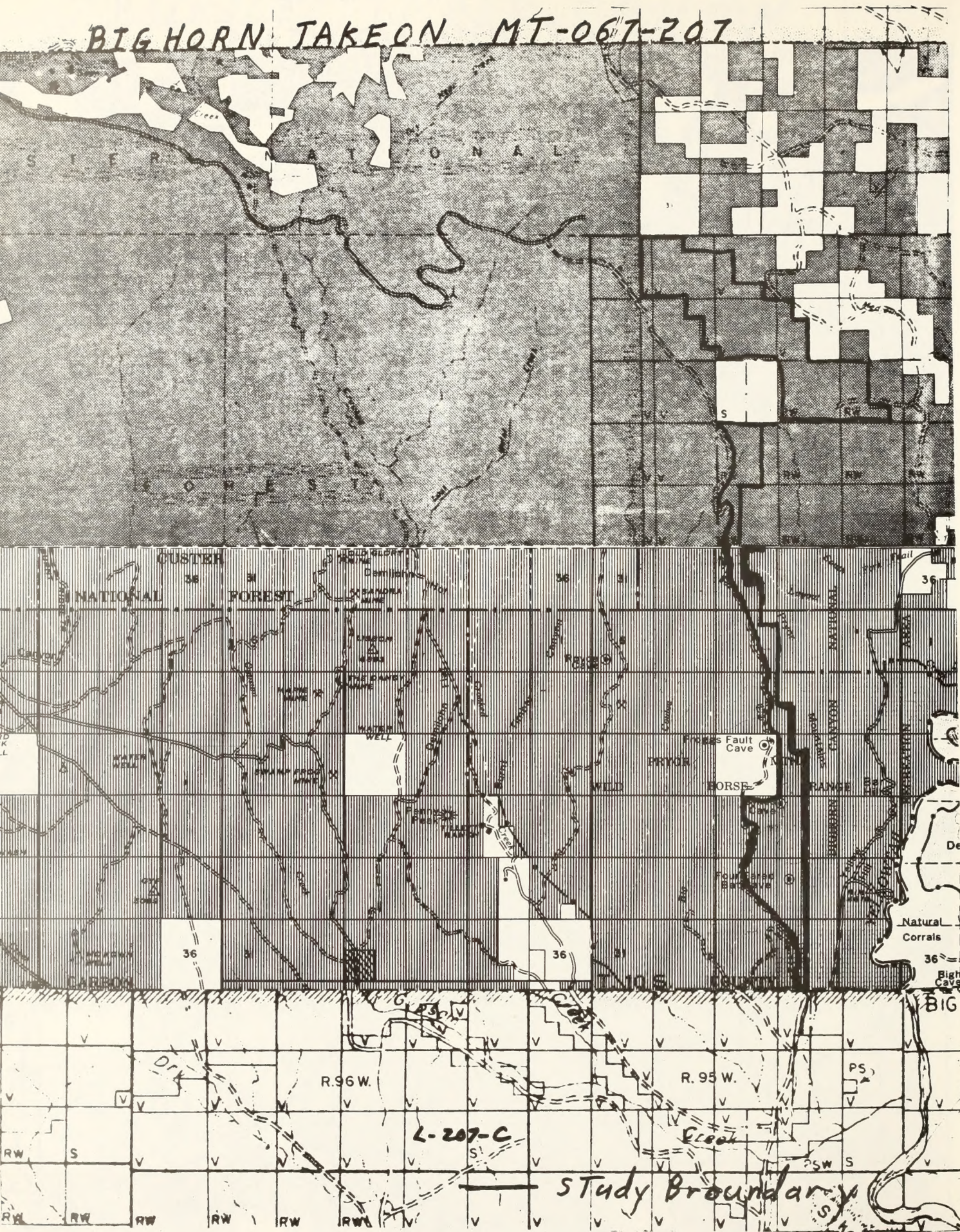


PRYOR MOUNTAINS

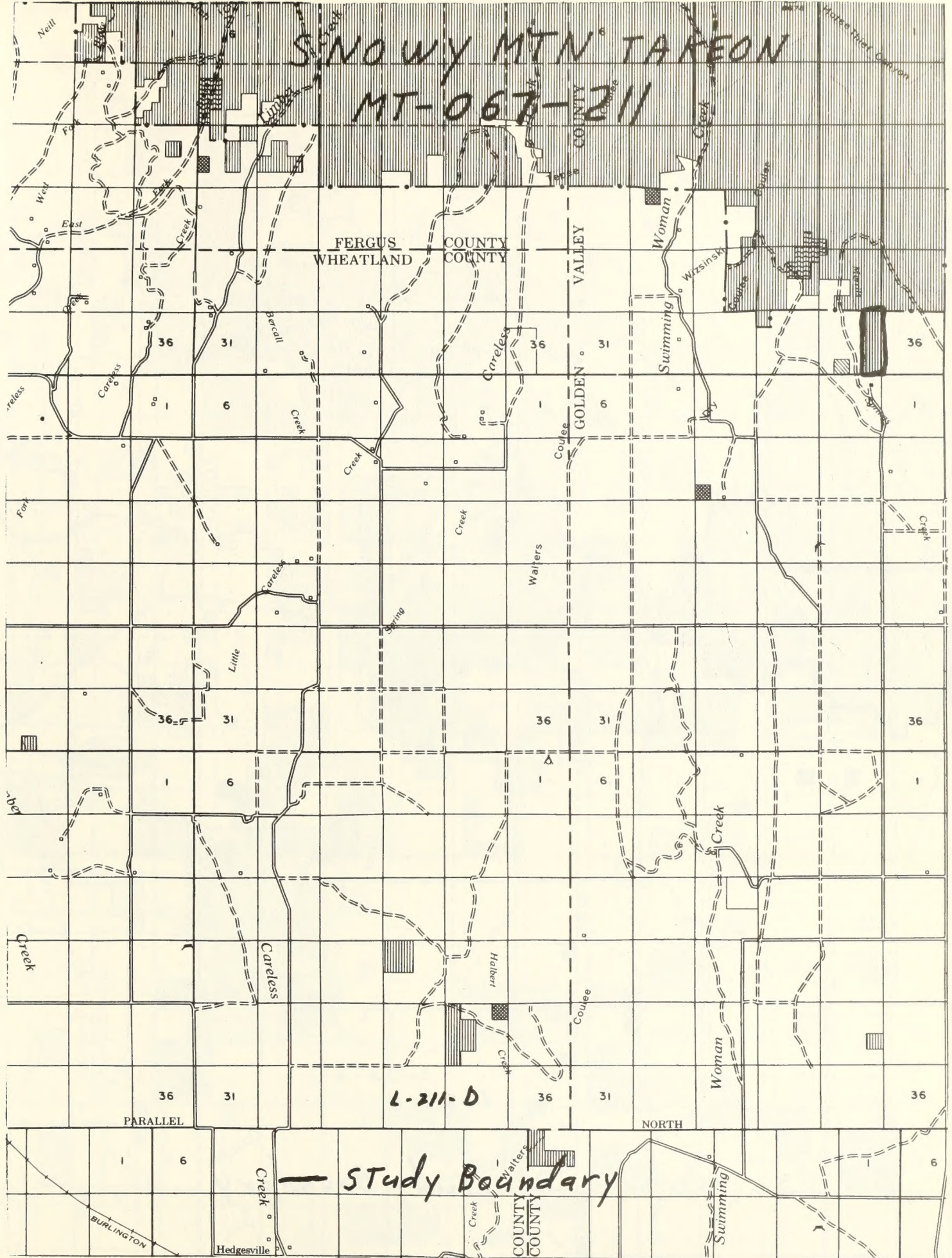
MT-067-206



BIG HORN TAKEON MT-067-207



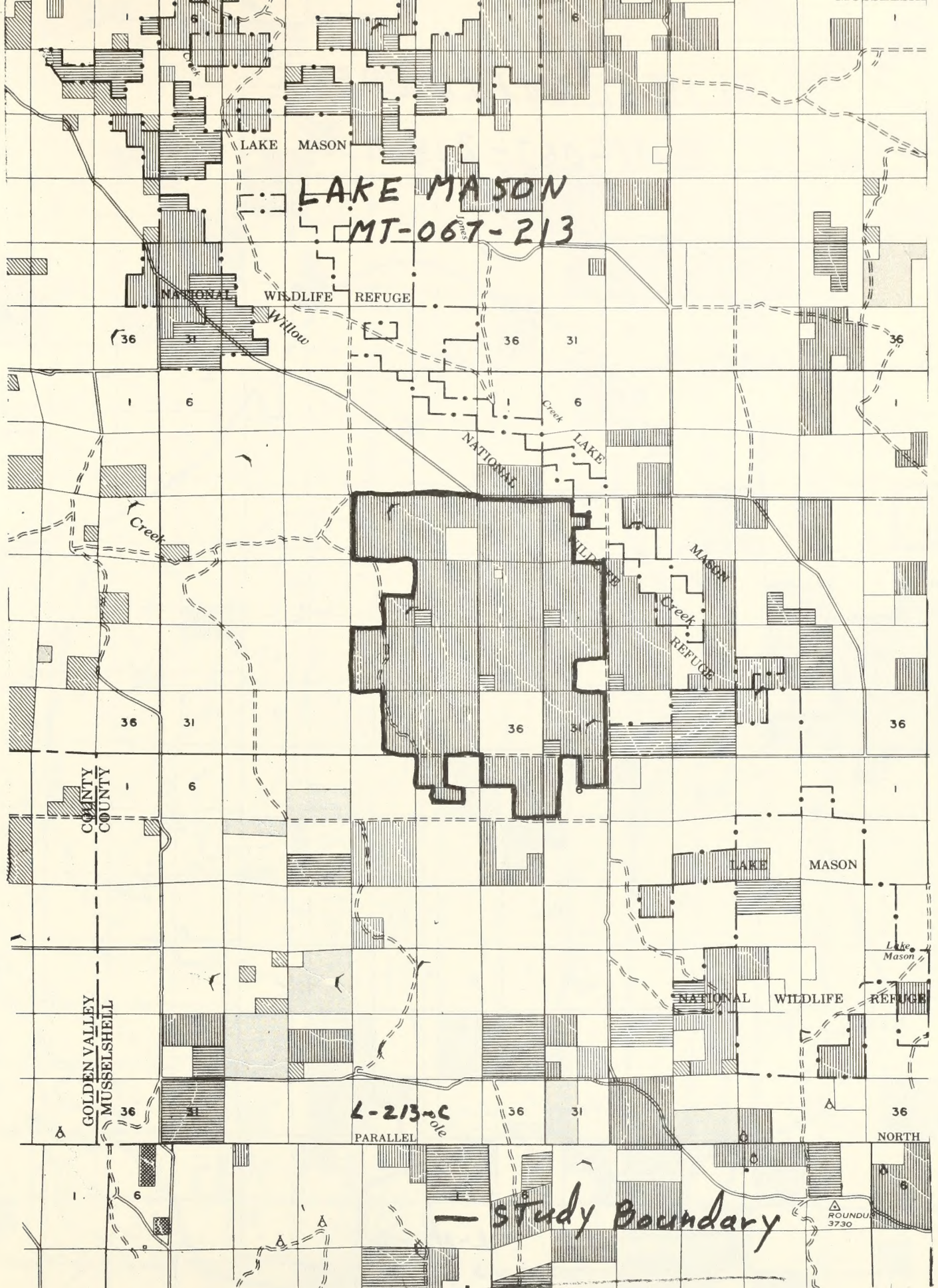
Snowy Mtn. Tareon
MT-067-211



TWIN COULEE
MT-067-212

L-212-D

Study Boundary



LITTLE WALL CREEK

MT-067-214

PETROLEUM
MUSSELSHELL

COUNTY
COUNTY

Howard

Wall

Creek

Willow

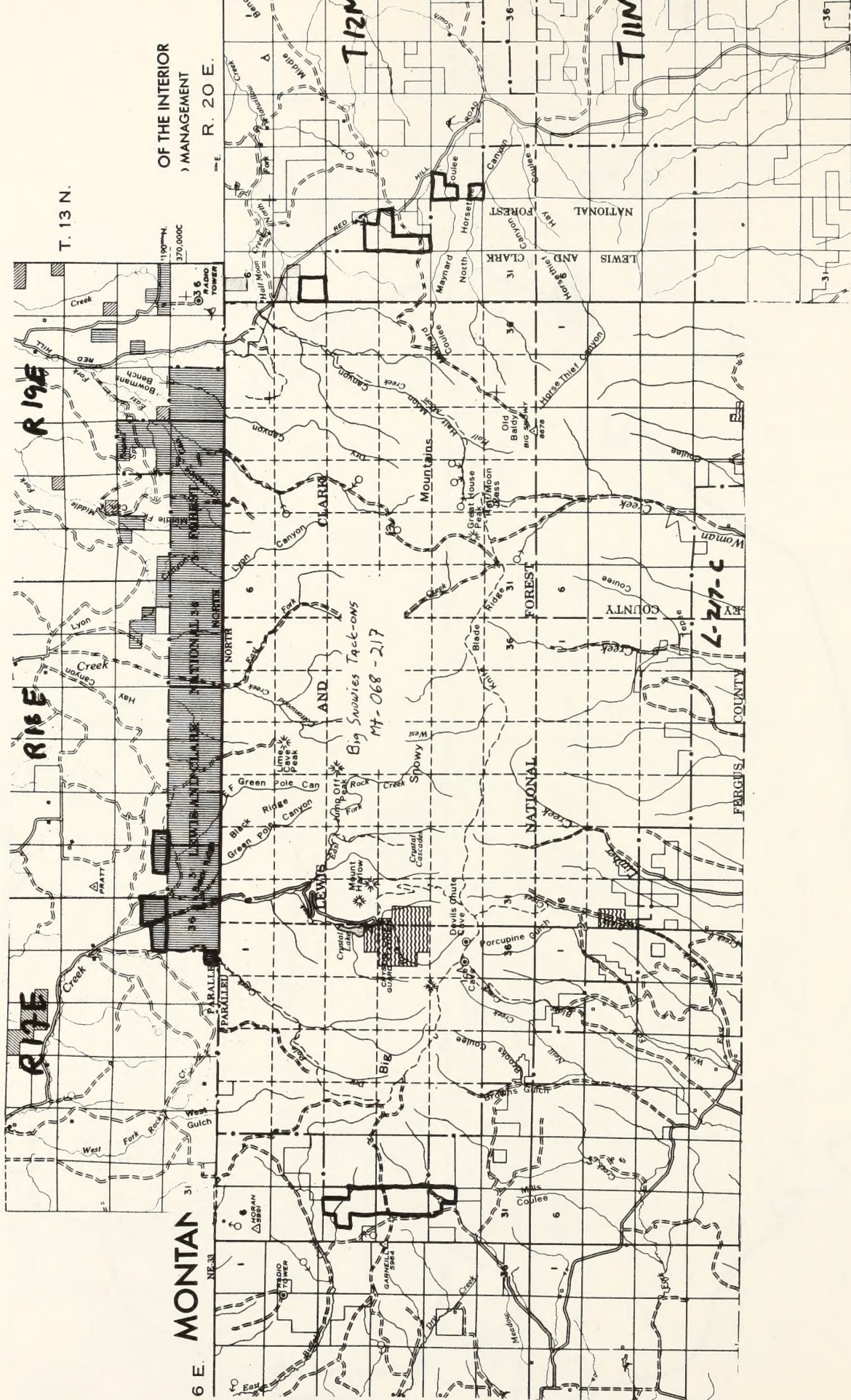
North

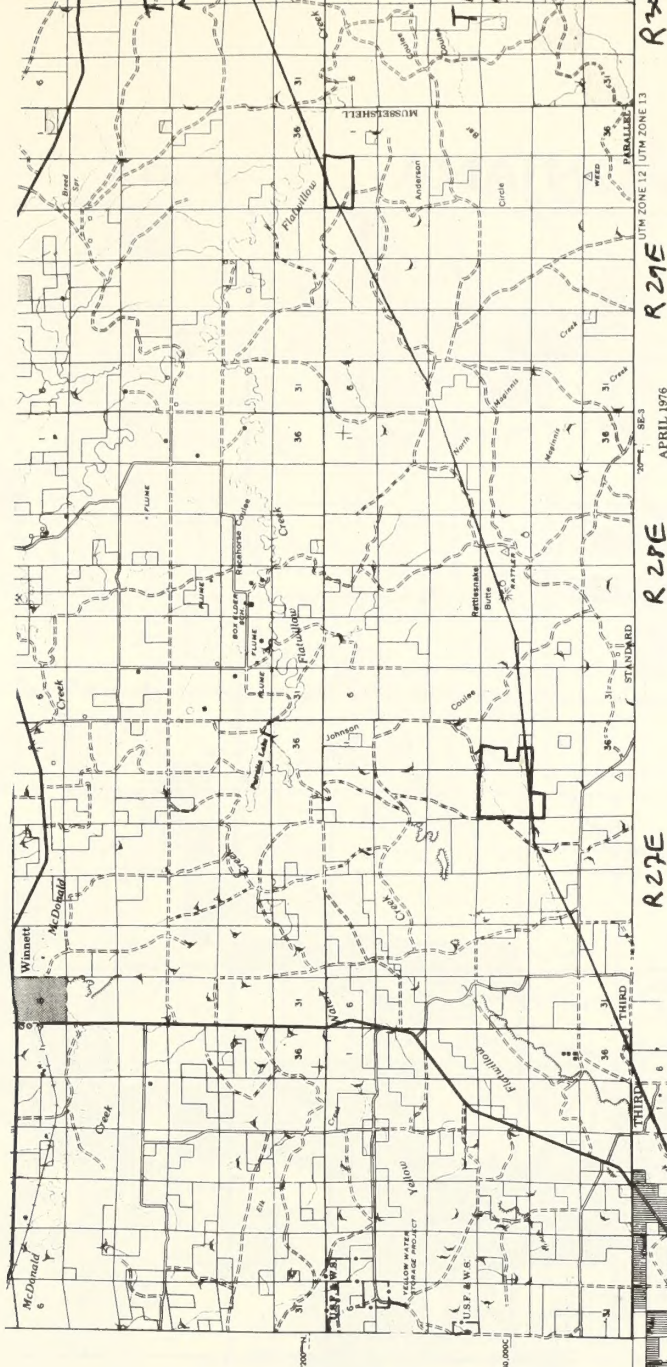
STORER
3392

L-214-D

29E

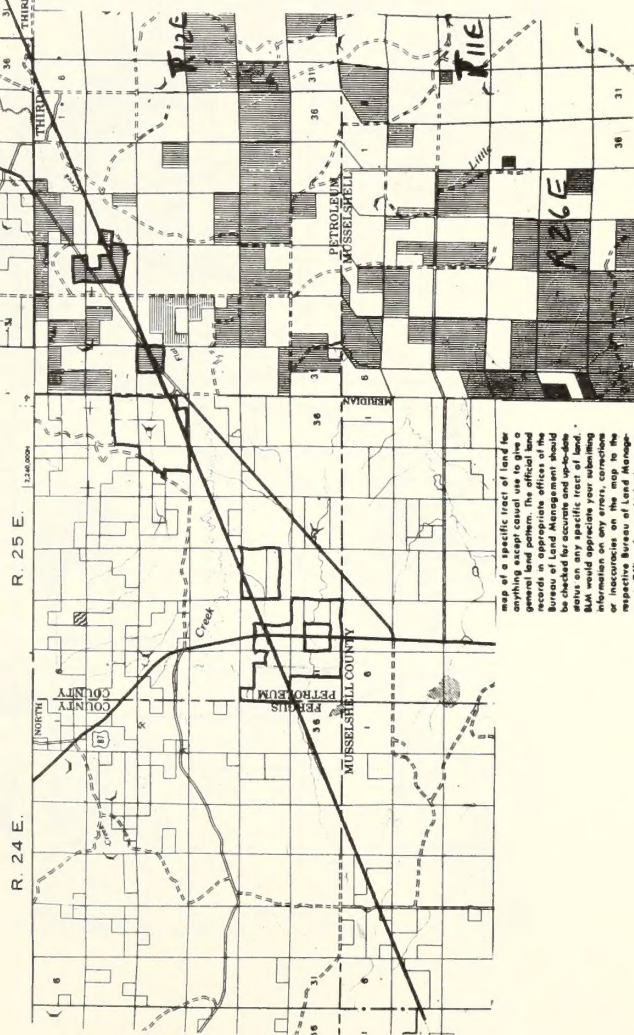
L-216-C





L-218-C

ROUND BAY
(PLANIMETER)

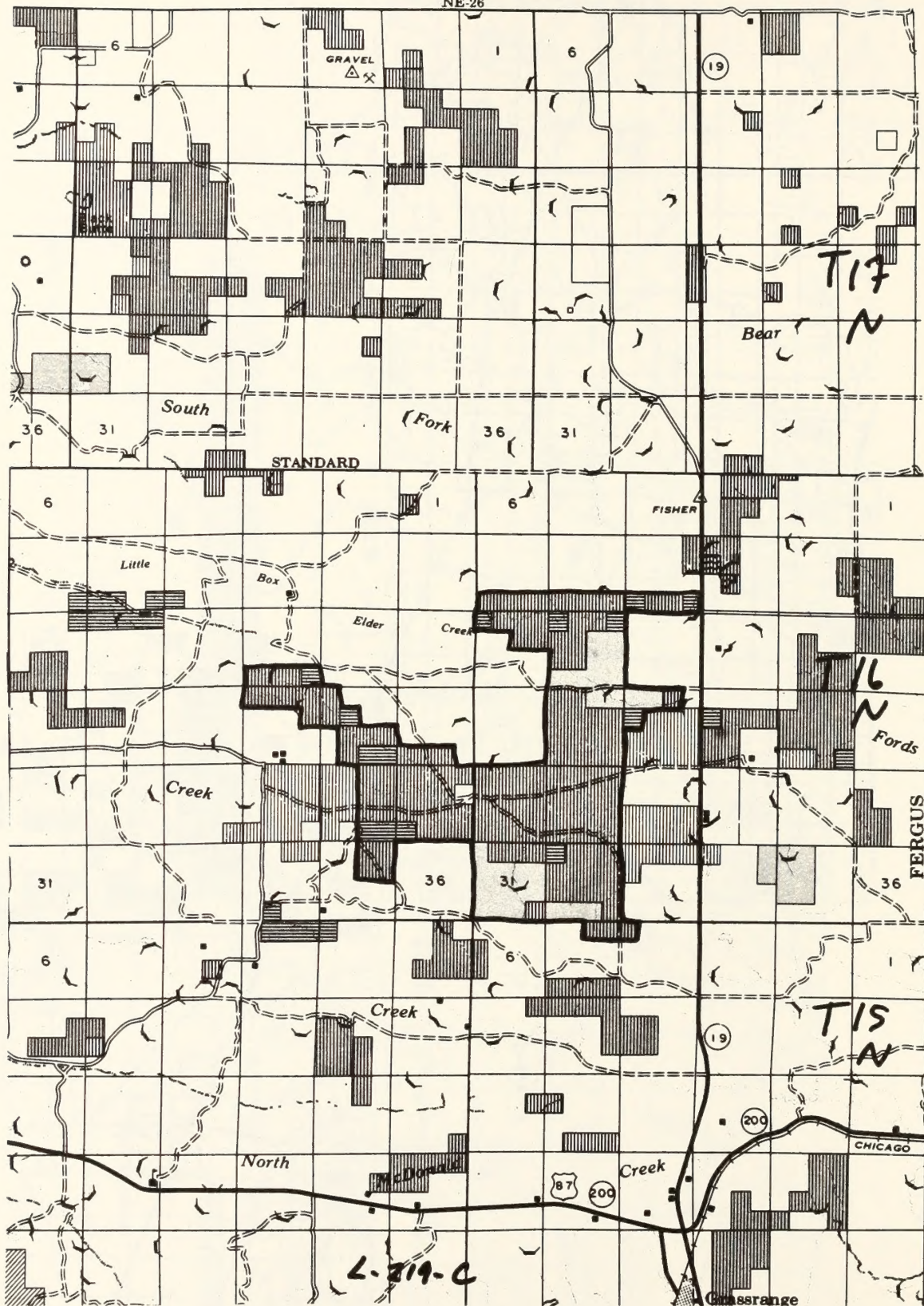


map of a specific tract of land for
general land purposes. The official land
records in appropriate offices of the
Bureau of Land Management should
be consulted for more detailed information
about any specific tract of land.
BAM would appreciate your submitting
information on any errors, corrections
or suggestions for improvement to the
Responsible Bureau of Land Management
staff.

R. 22 E. **MONTANA**

R. 23 E.

NE-26



R. 27 E.

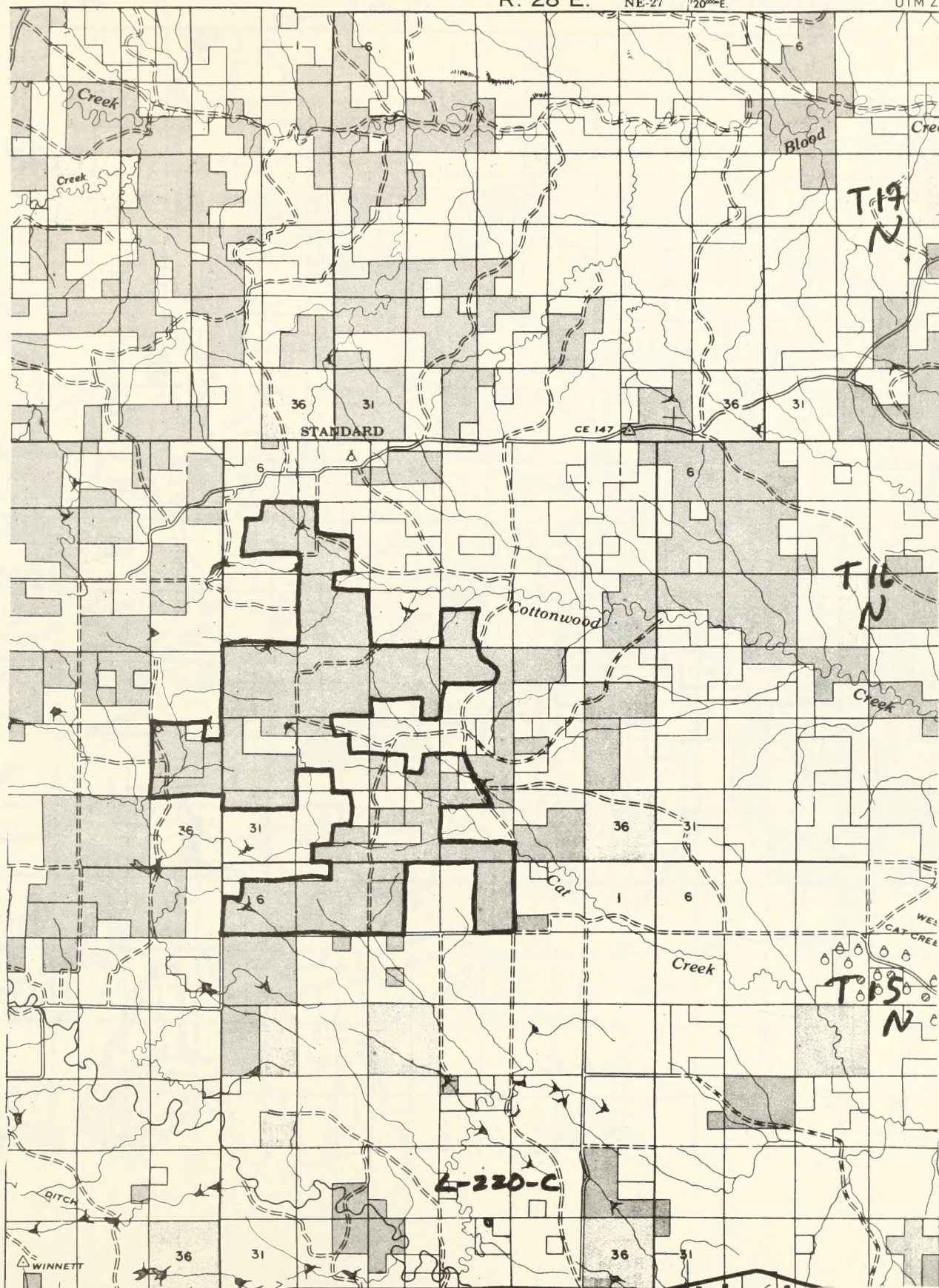
MONTANA

R. 28 E.

NE-27

200000 E.

R29E F
UTM Z

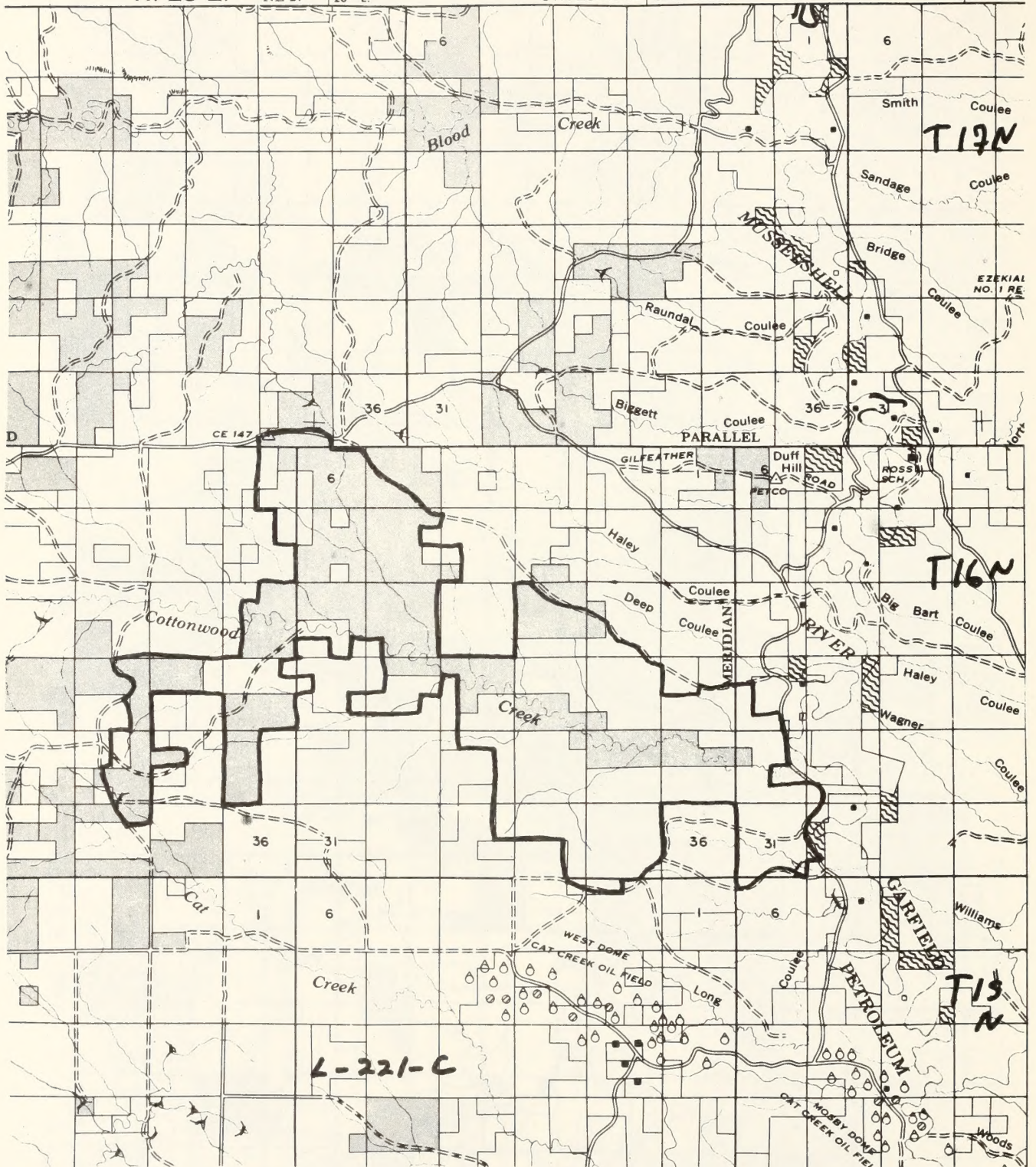


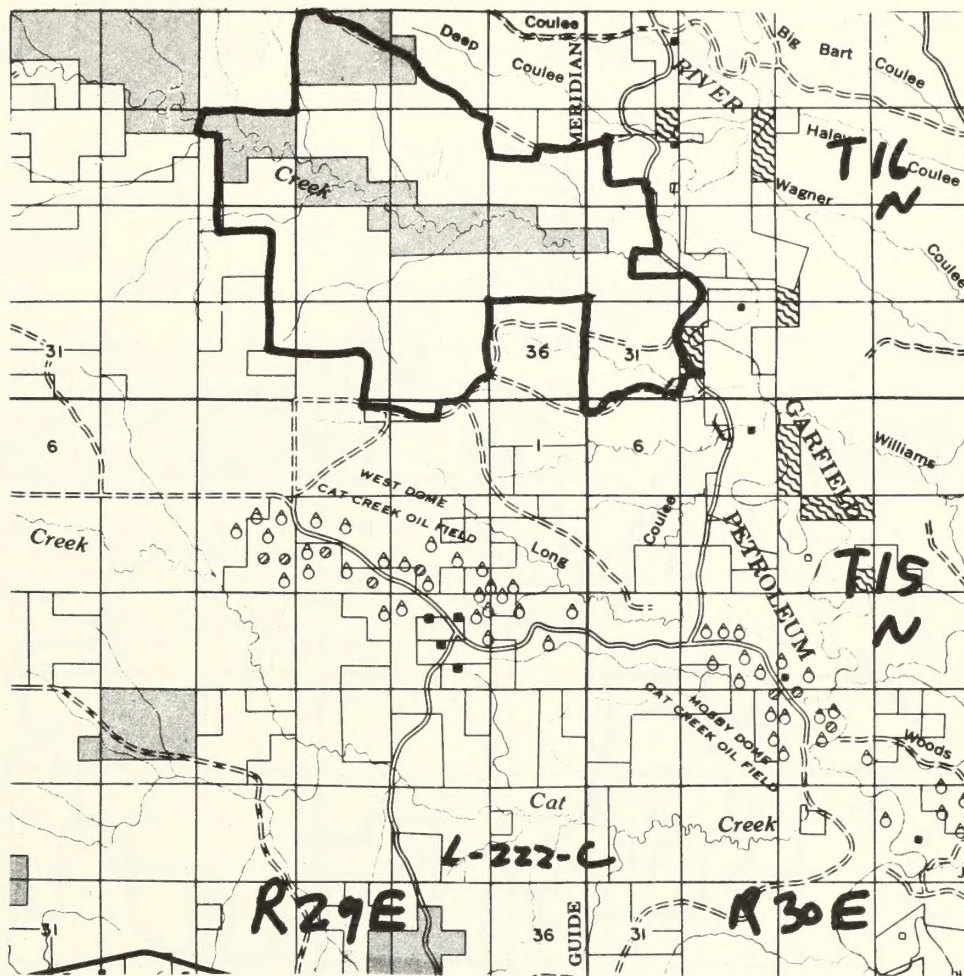
MONTANA

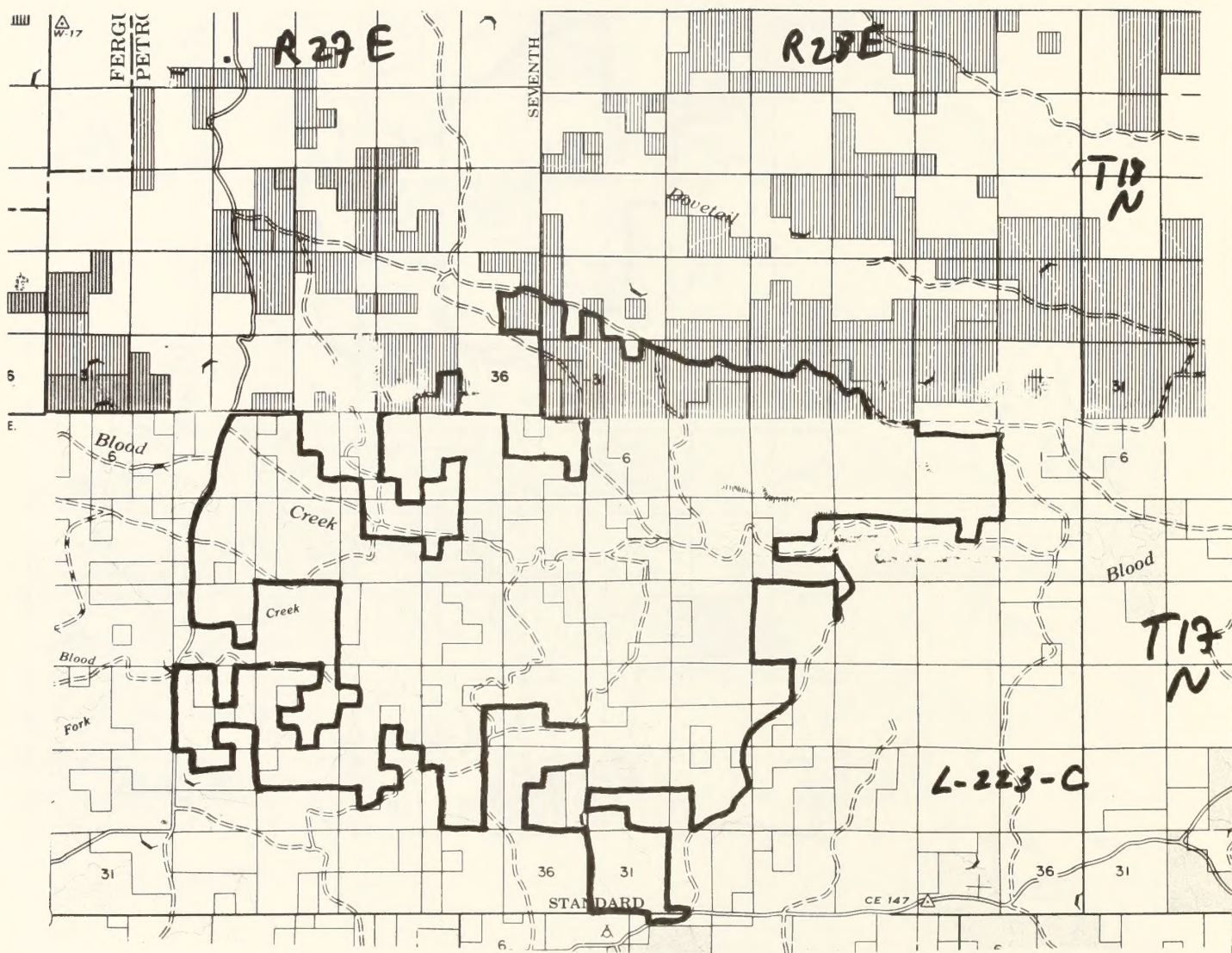
R. 28 E. NE-27 200000 E.

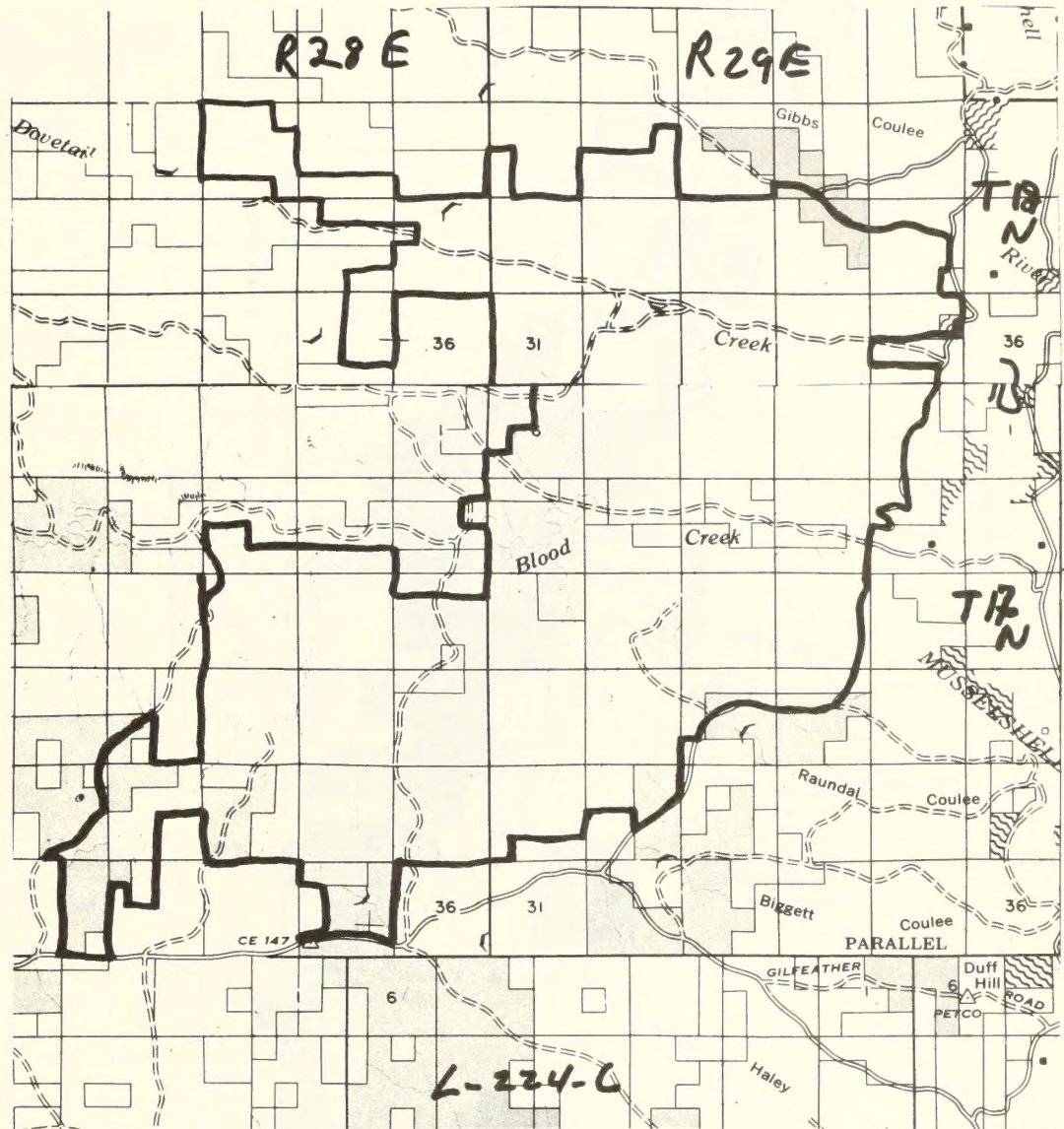
R. 29 E. UTM ZONE 12 UTM ZONE 13

R30E 180000 E.



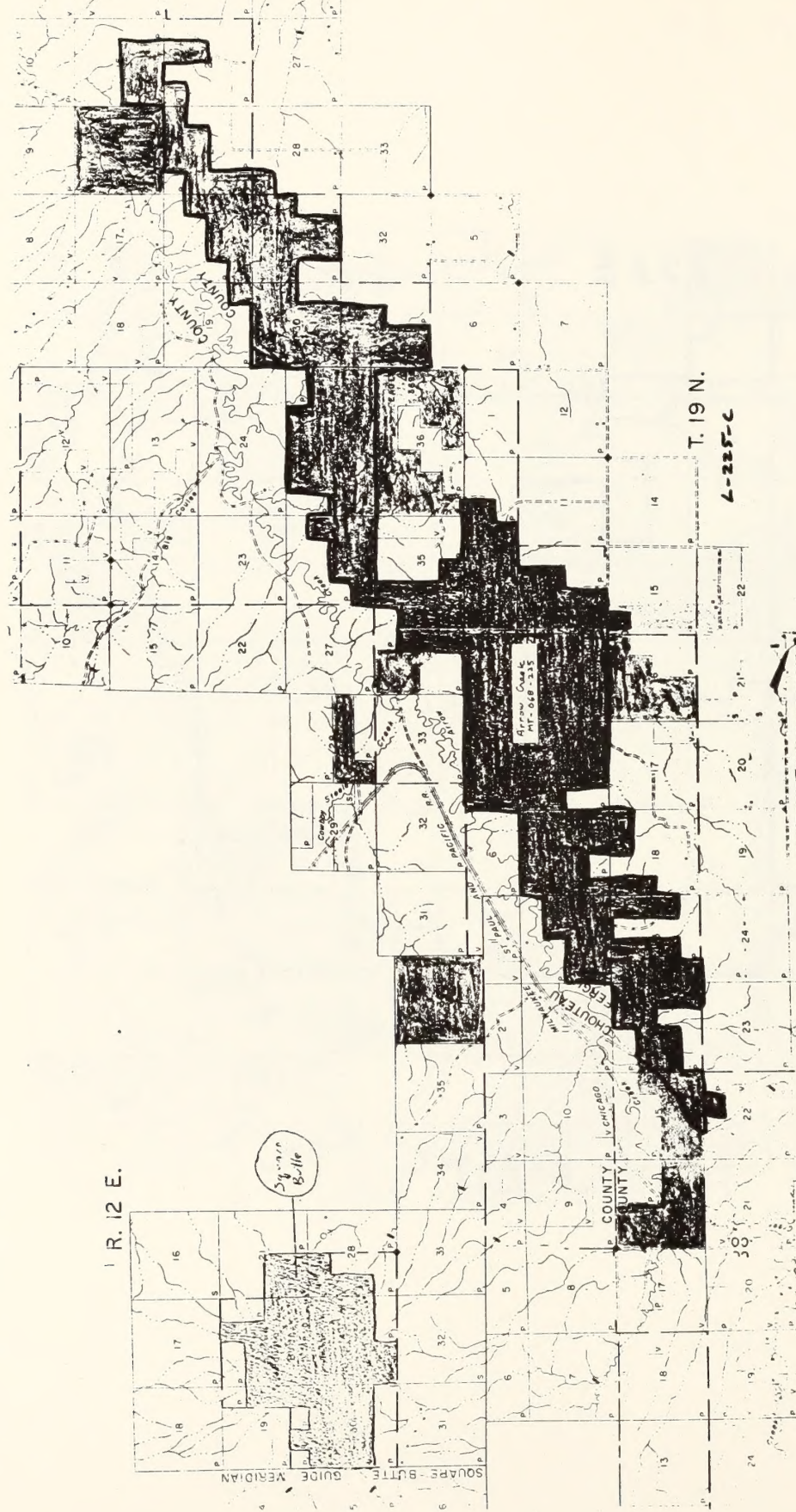
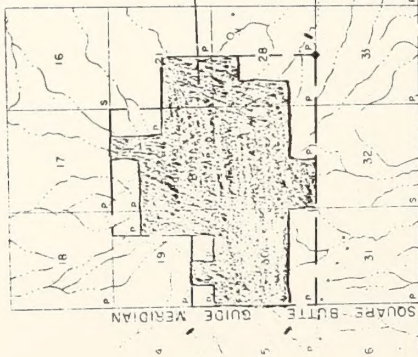






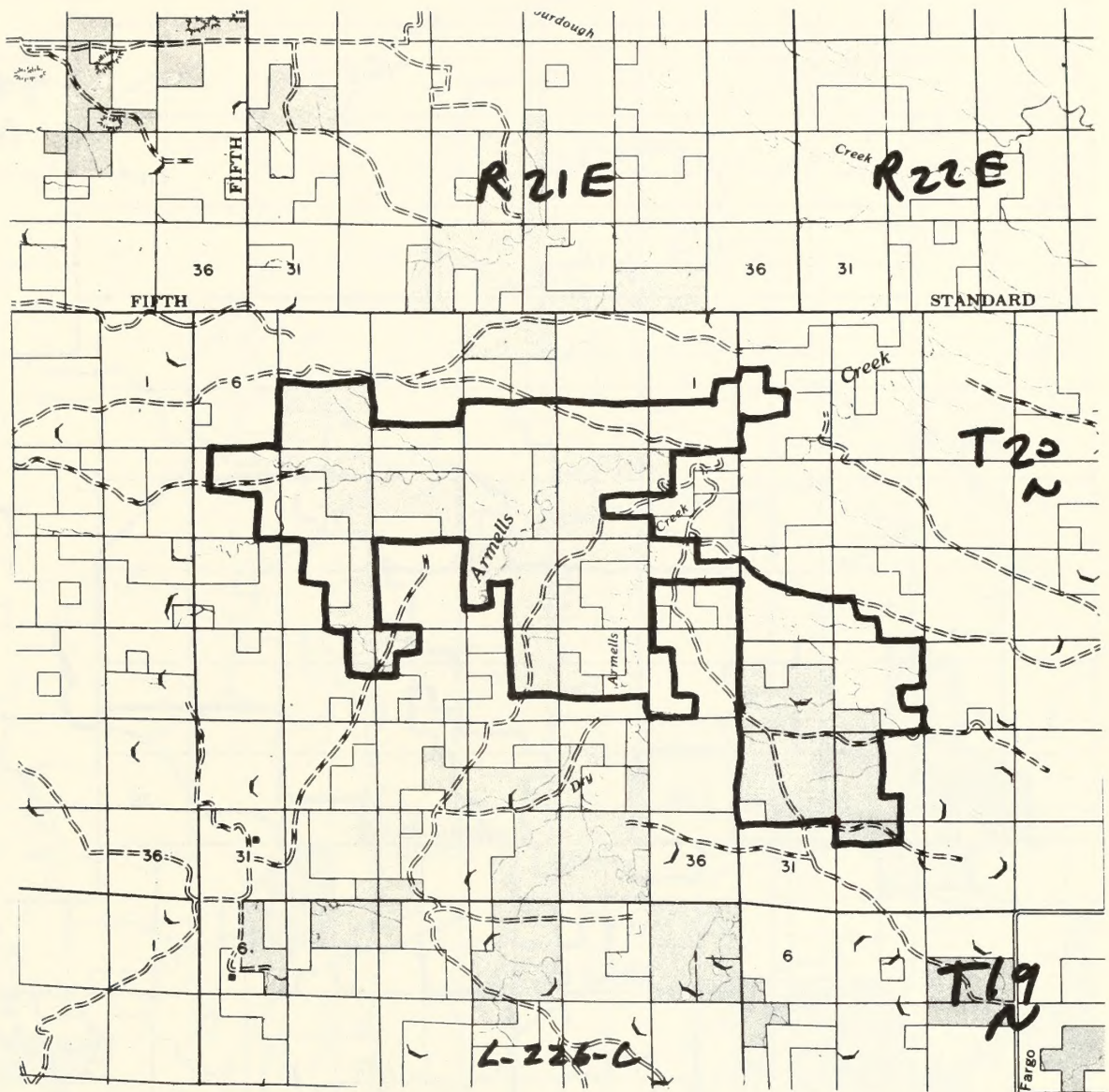
1 R. 12 E.

Square Butte
Belle



T. 19 N.

4-225-C

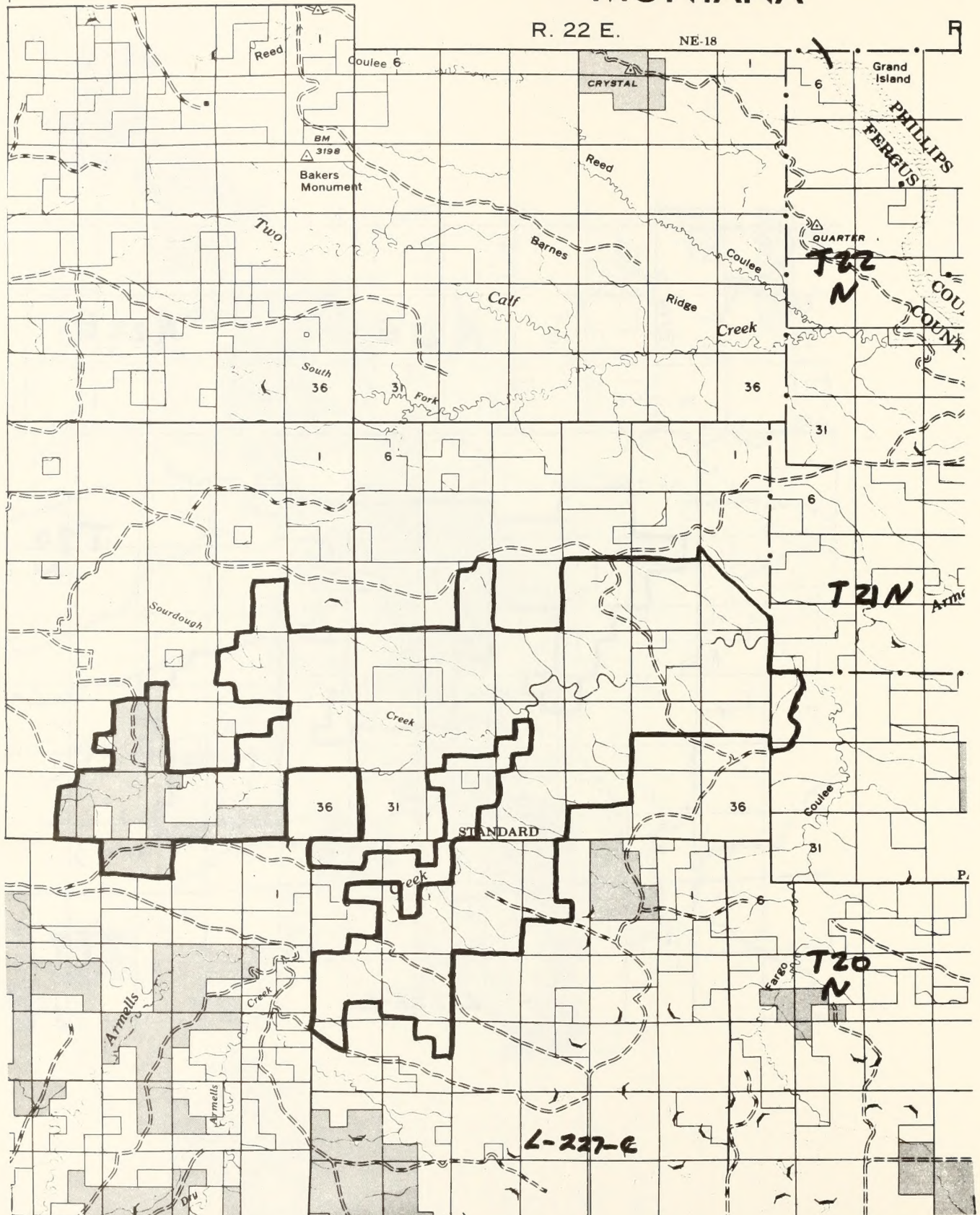


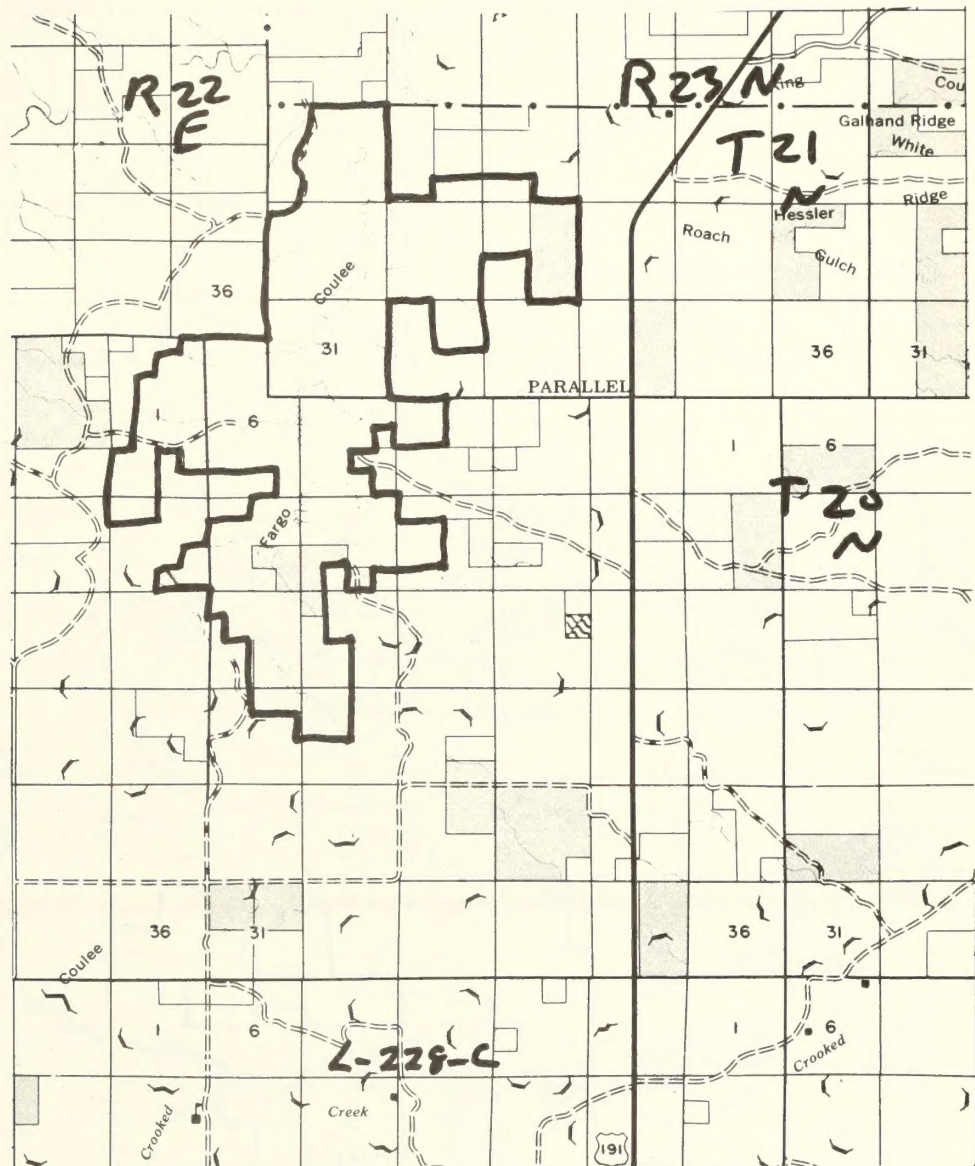
R. 21E.

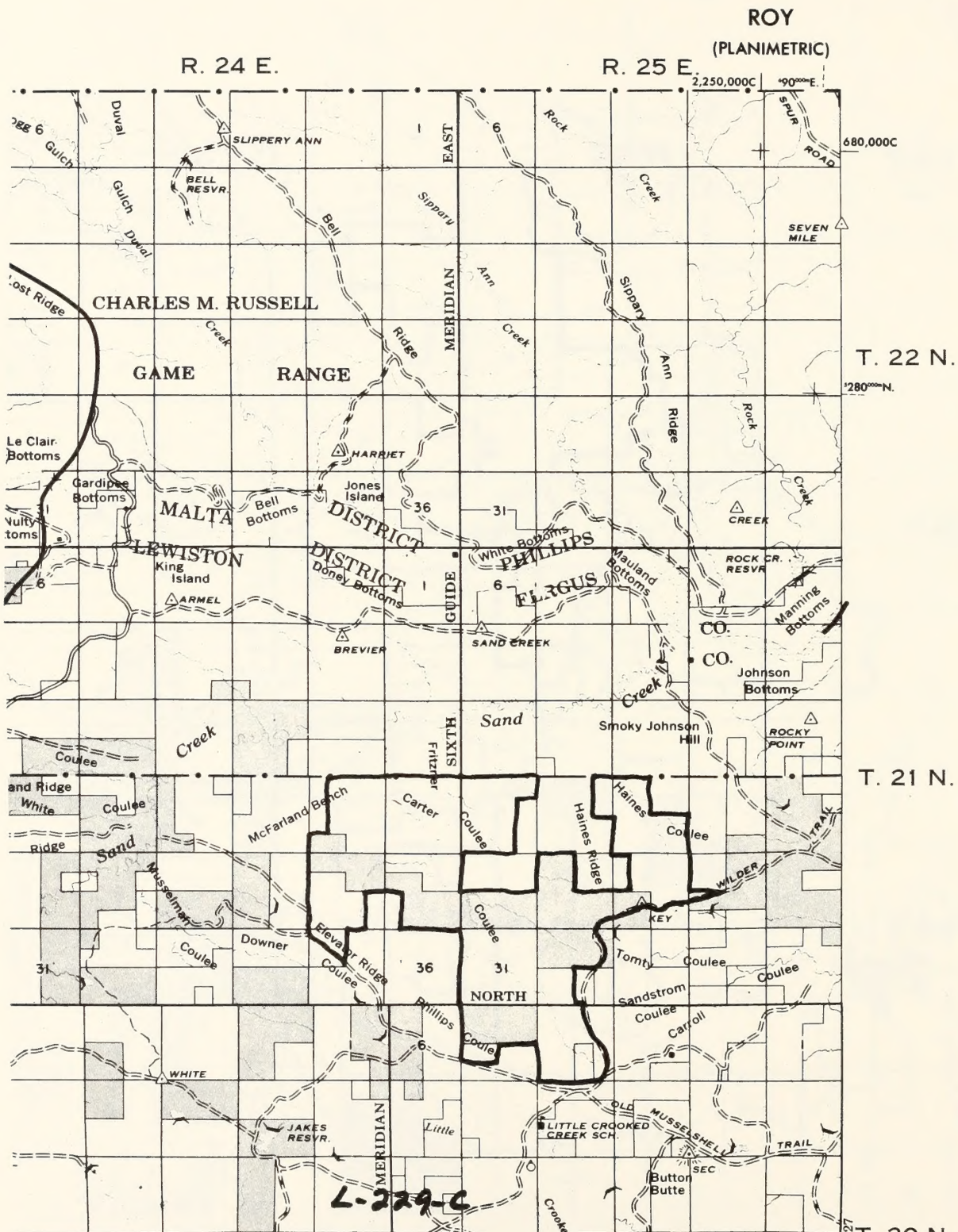
MONTANA

R. 22 E.

NE-18







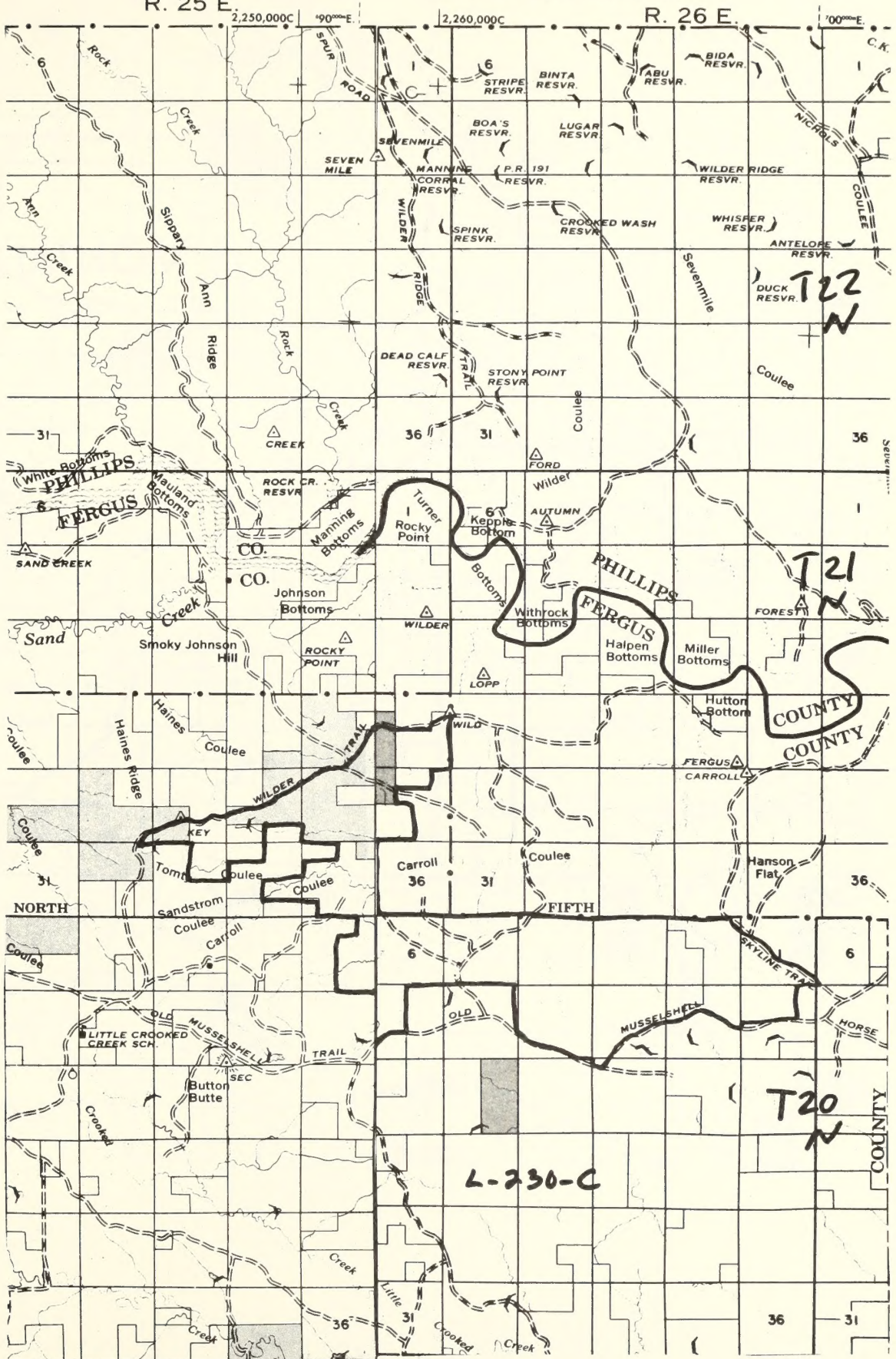
ROY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

(PLANIMETRIC)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

R. 25 E.

R. 26 E.

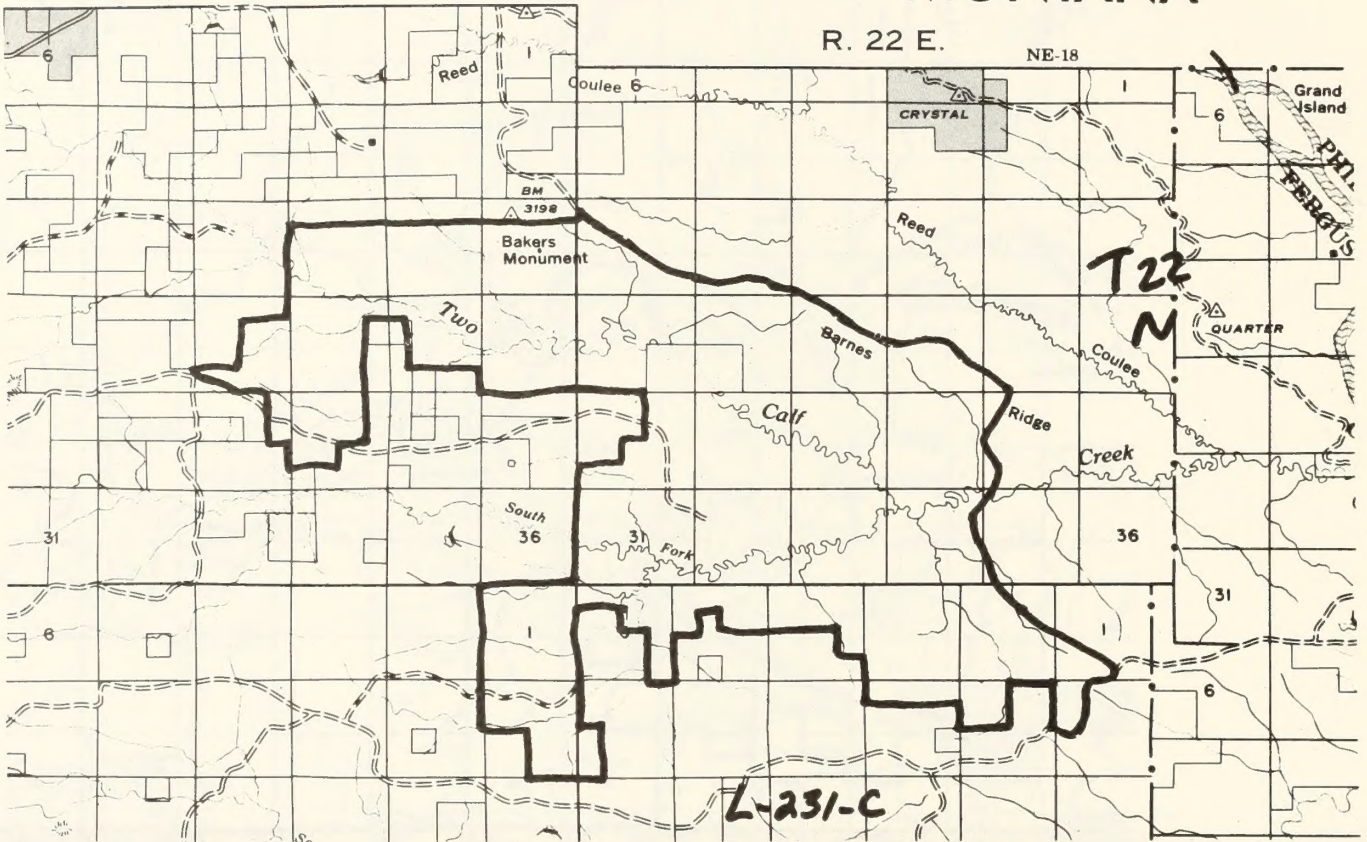


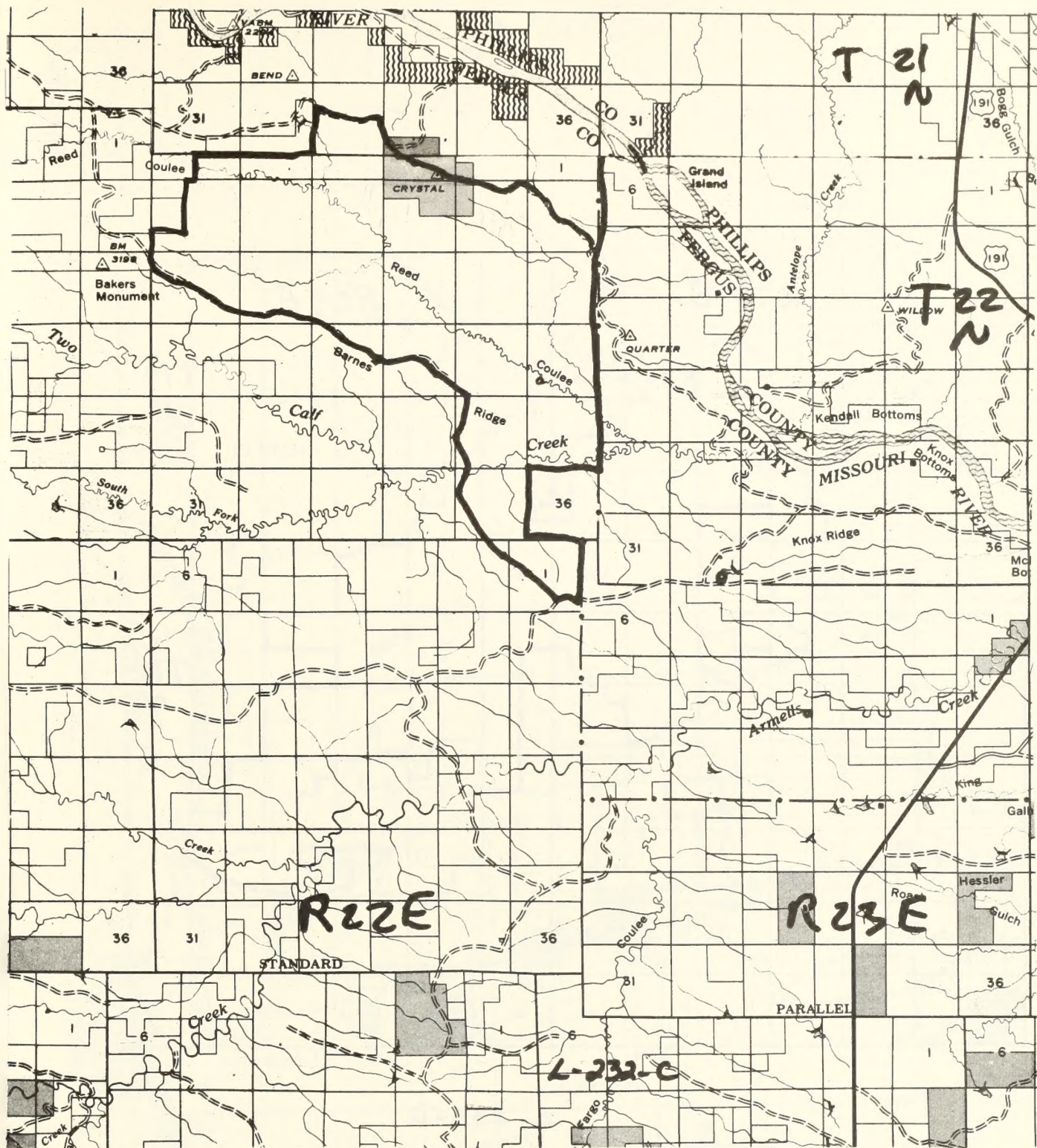
R. 21E.

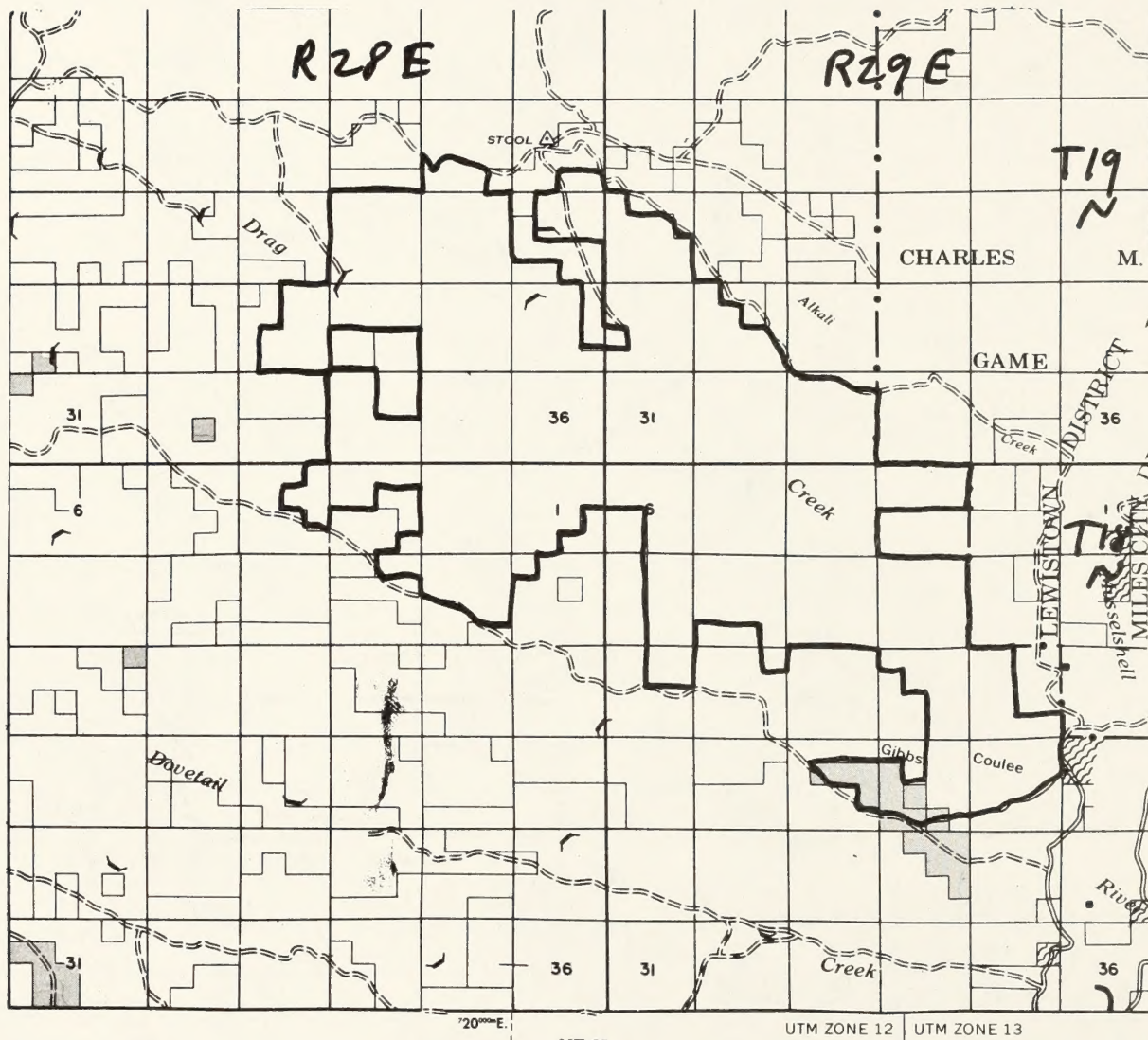
MONTANA

R. 22 E.

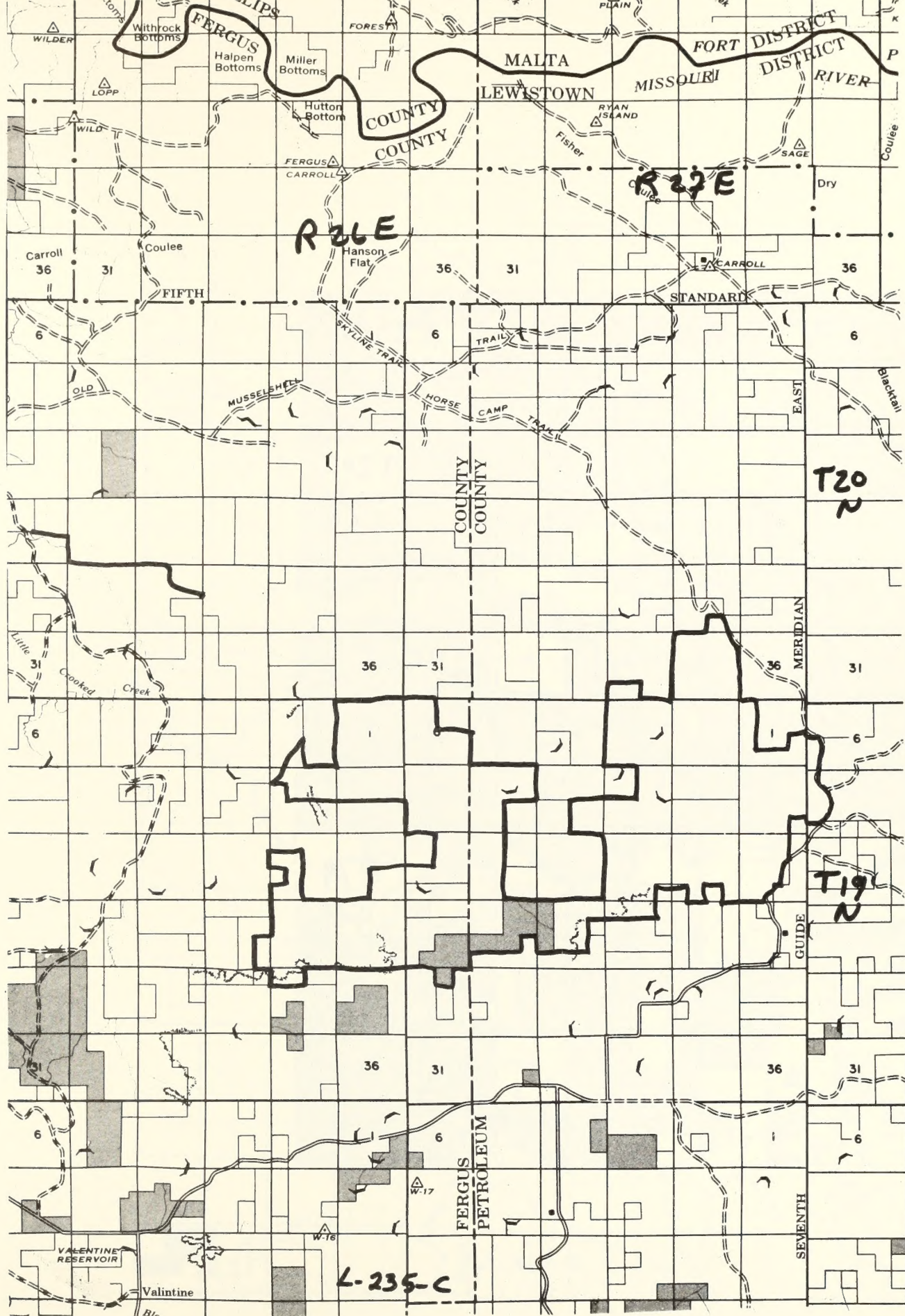
NE-18

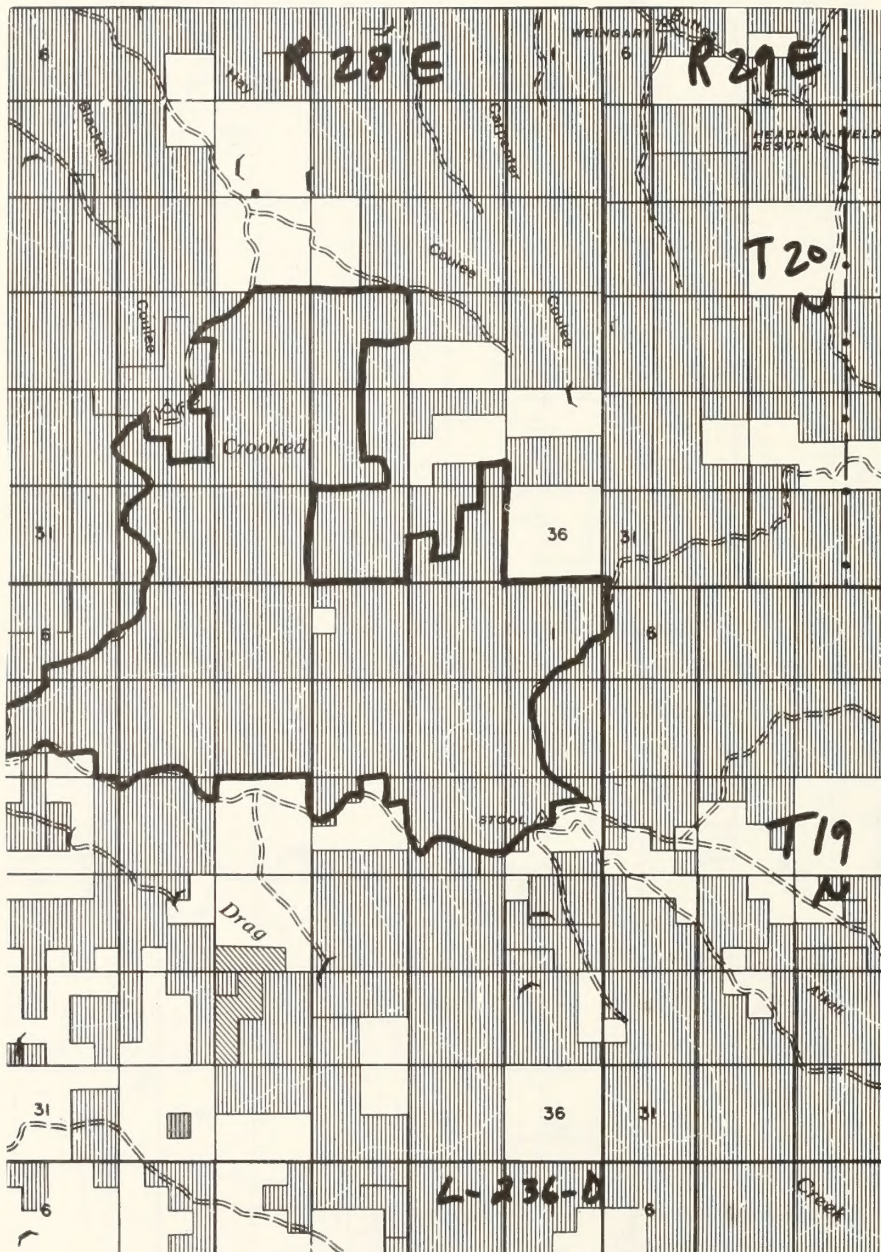




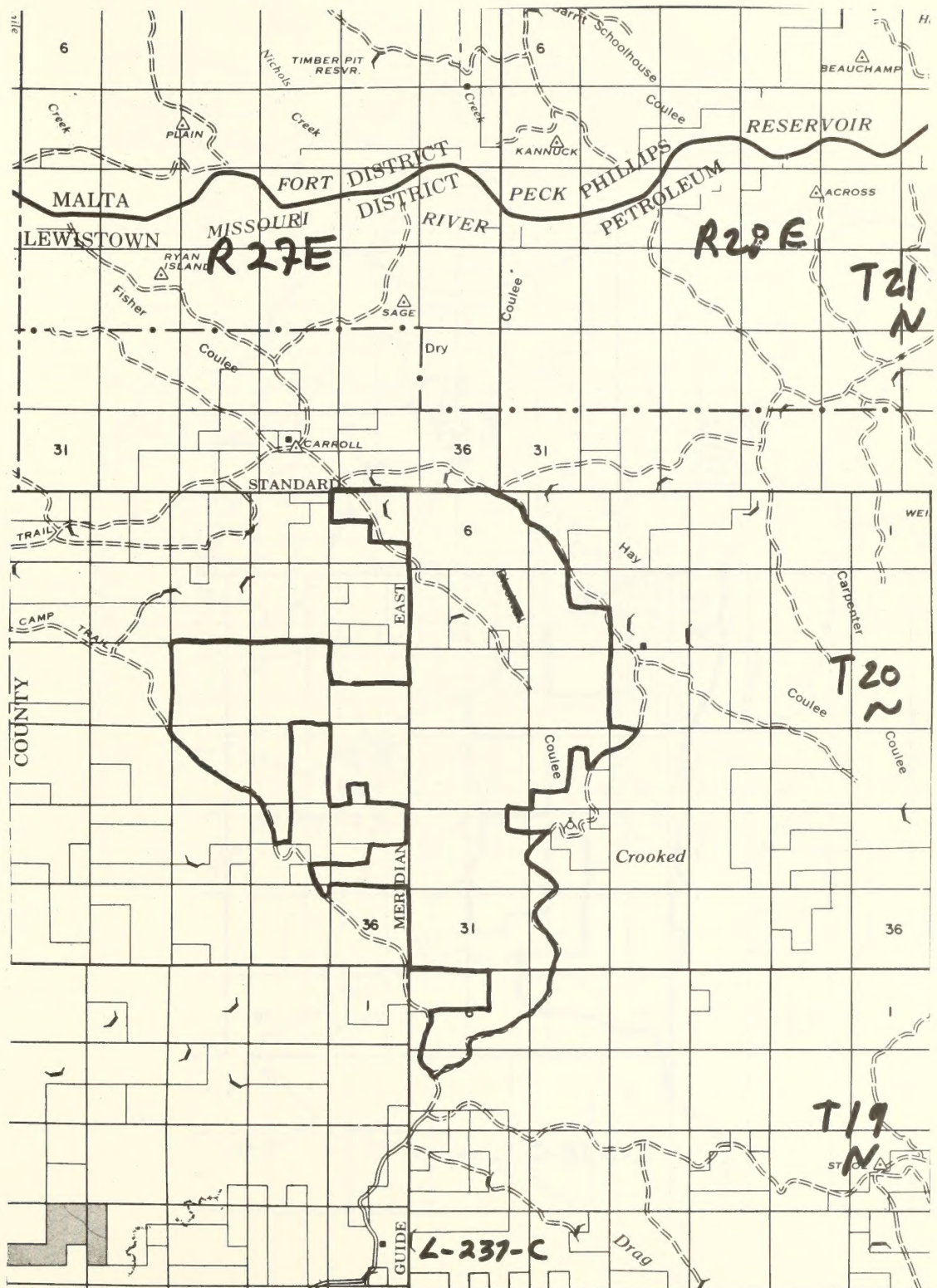


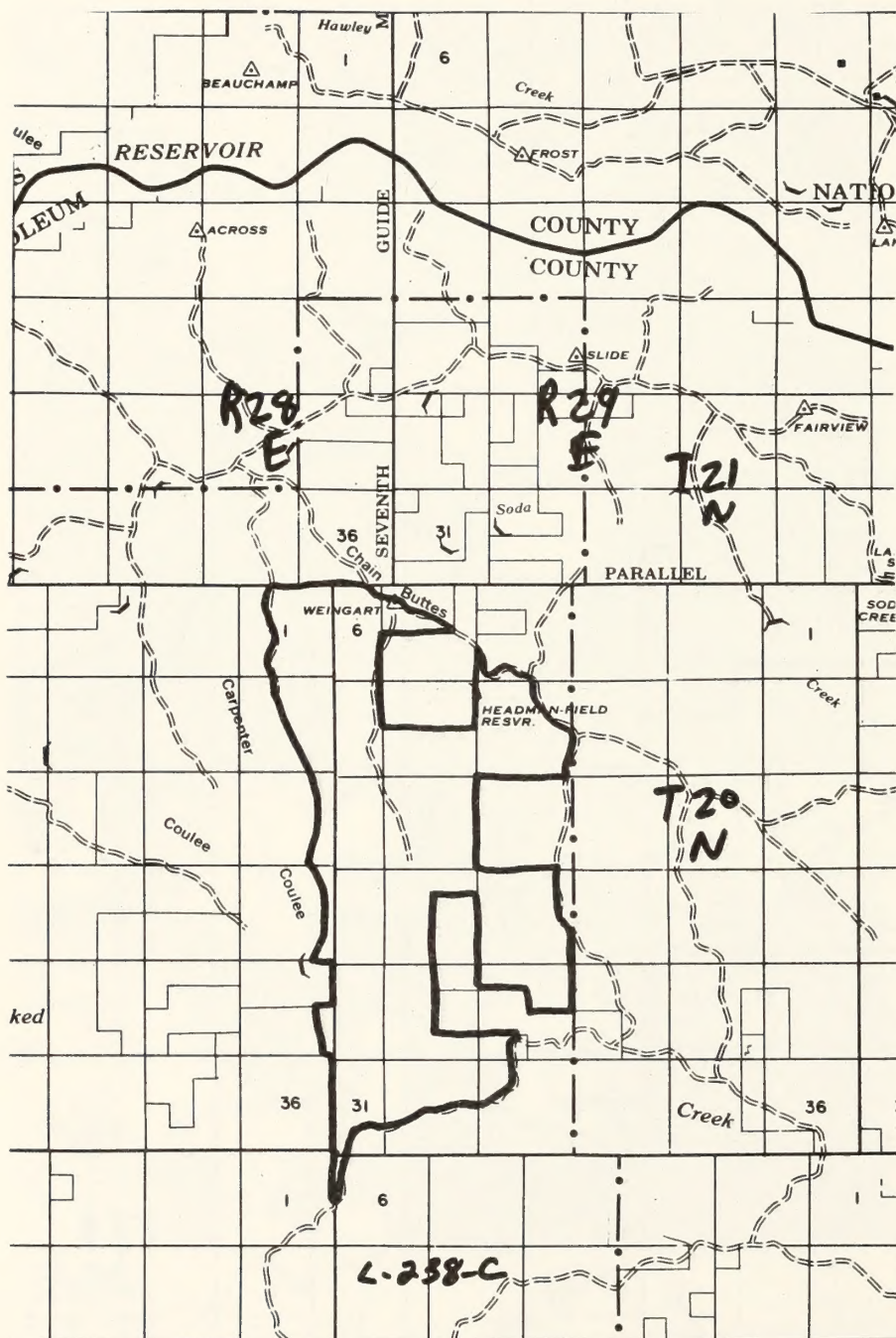
L-233-D



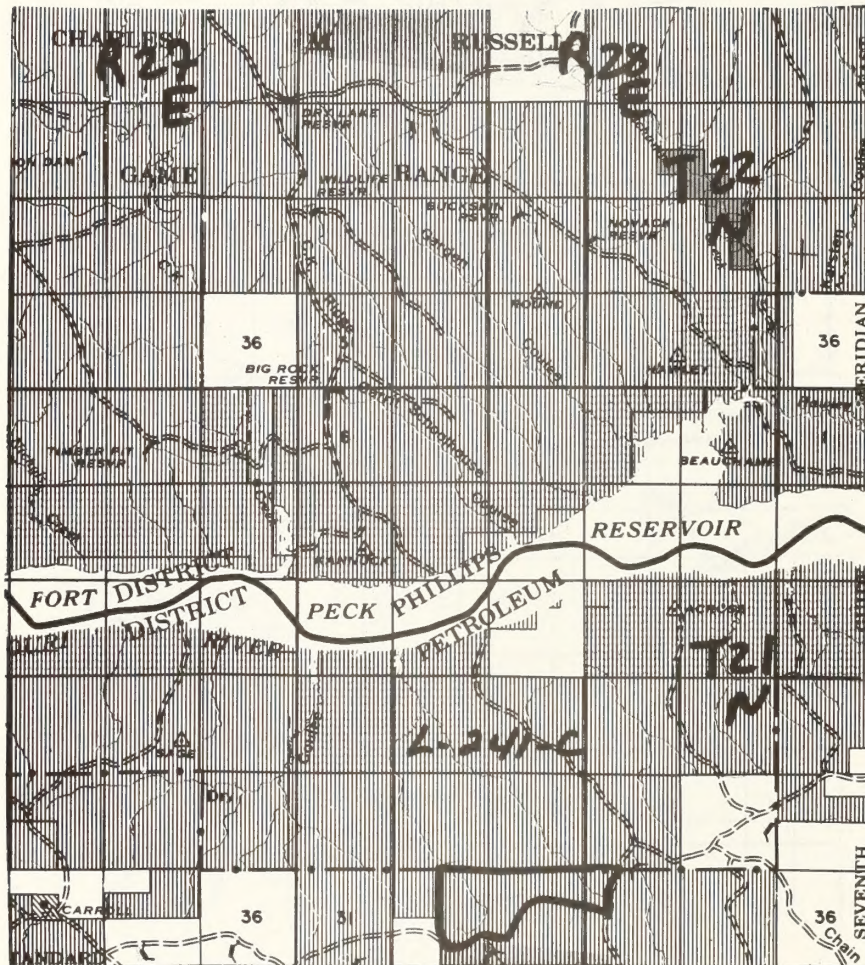


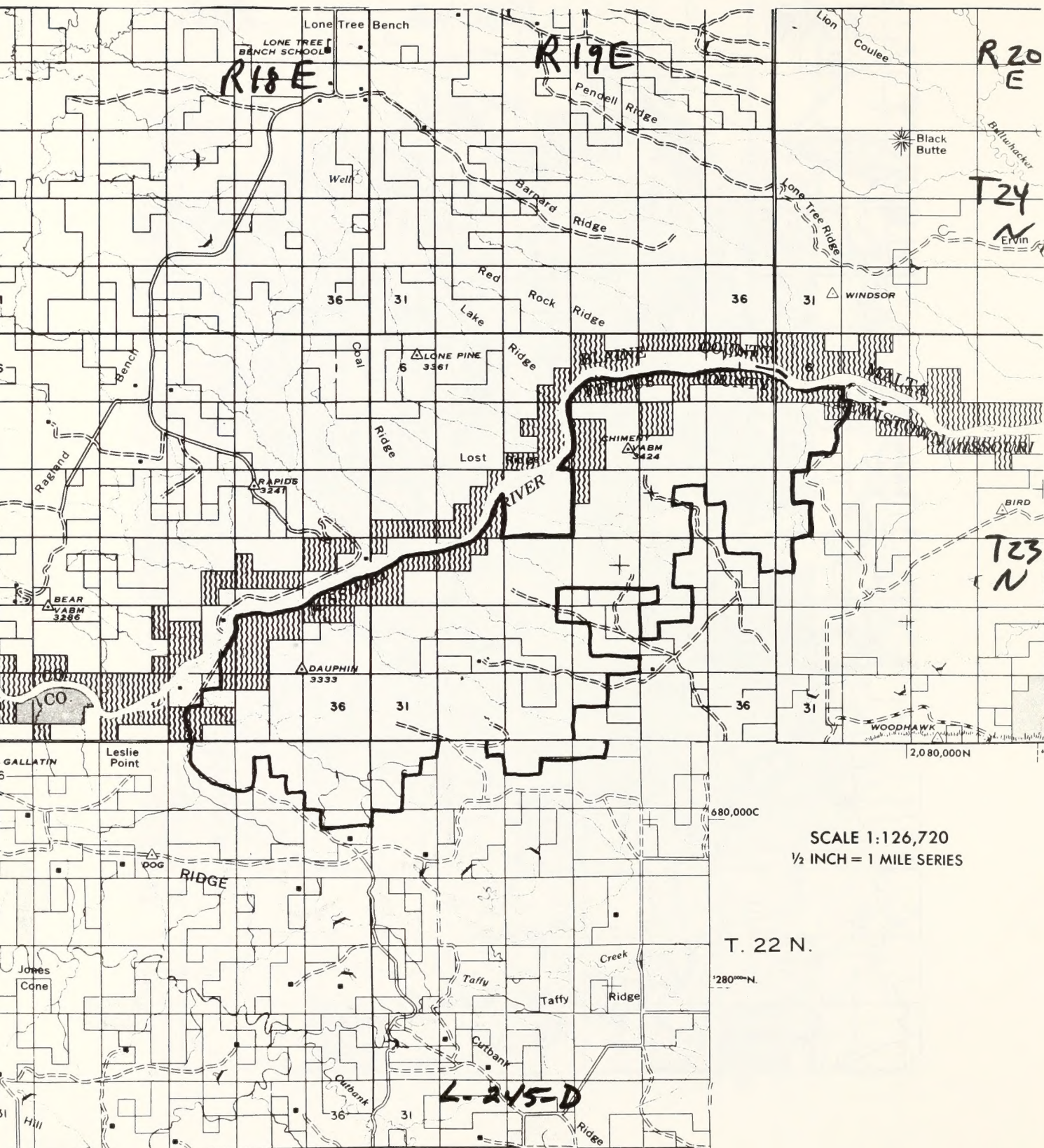
L-236-C





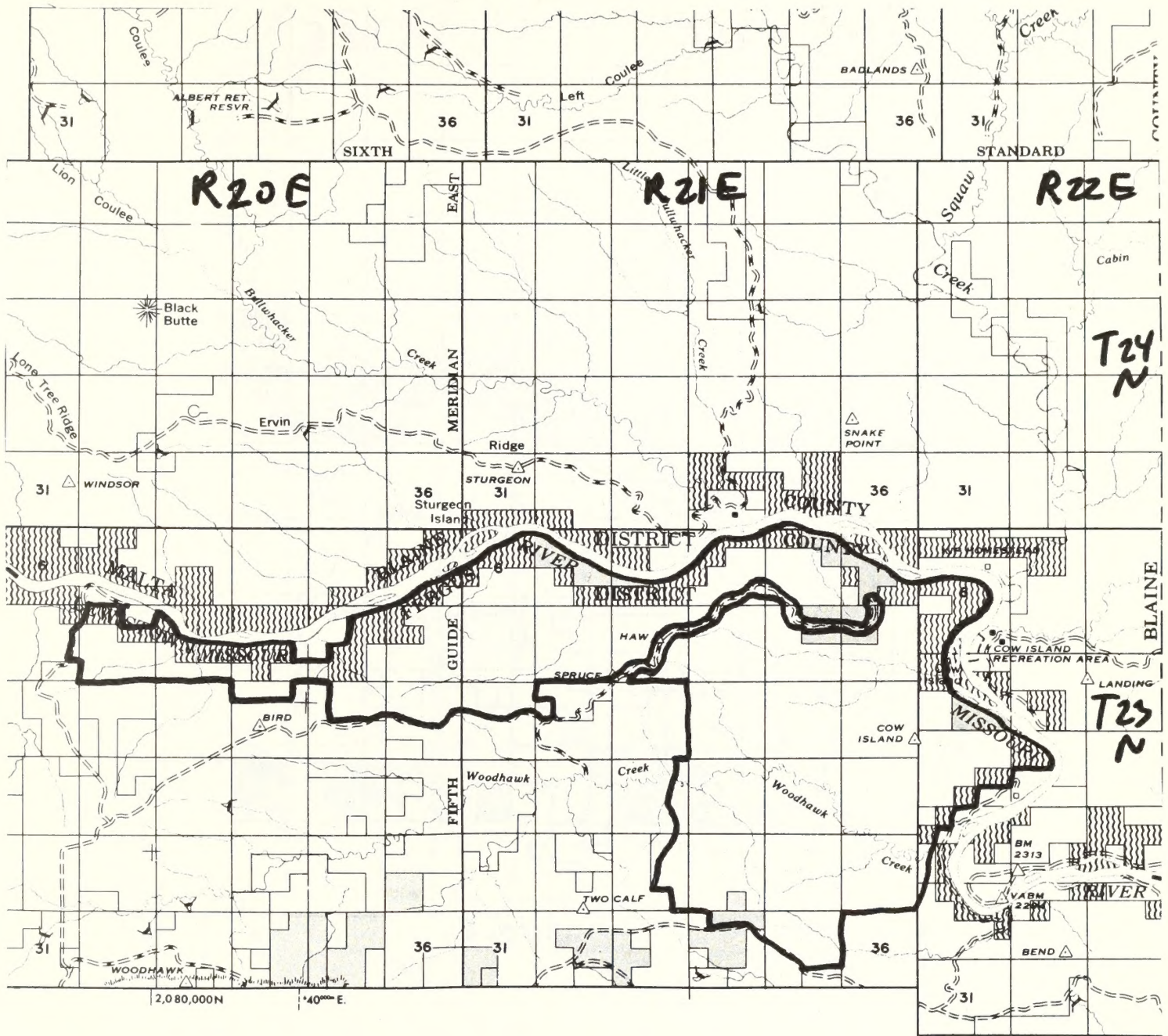






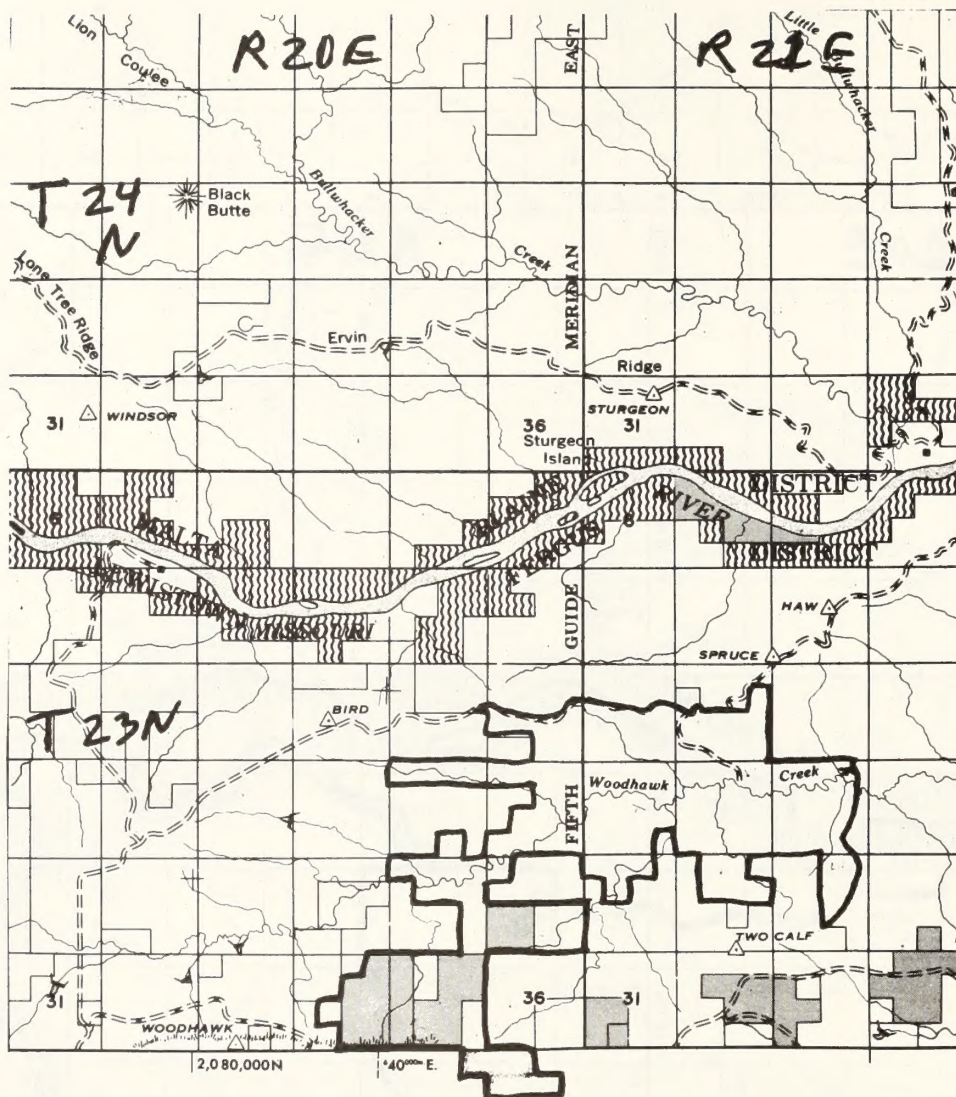
SCALE 1:126,720
1/2 INCH = 1 MILE SERIES

T. 22 N.



SCALE 1:126,720
 1/2 INCH = 1 MILE SERIES

L-246-D



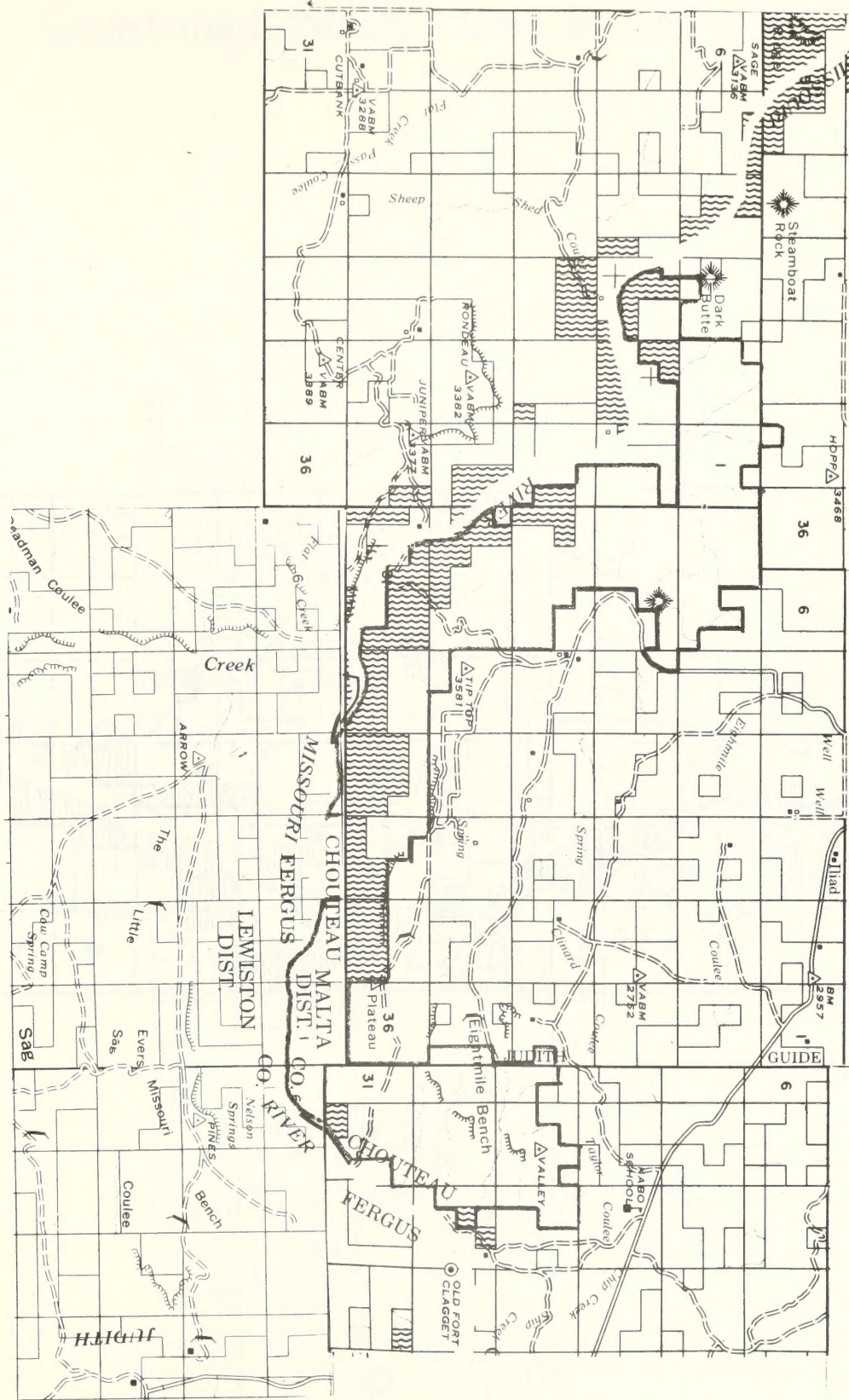
SCALE 1:126,720
 1/2 INCH = 1 MILE SERIES

L-247-C

R.14 E

R.15 E

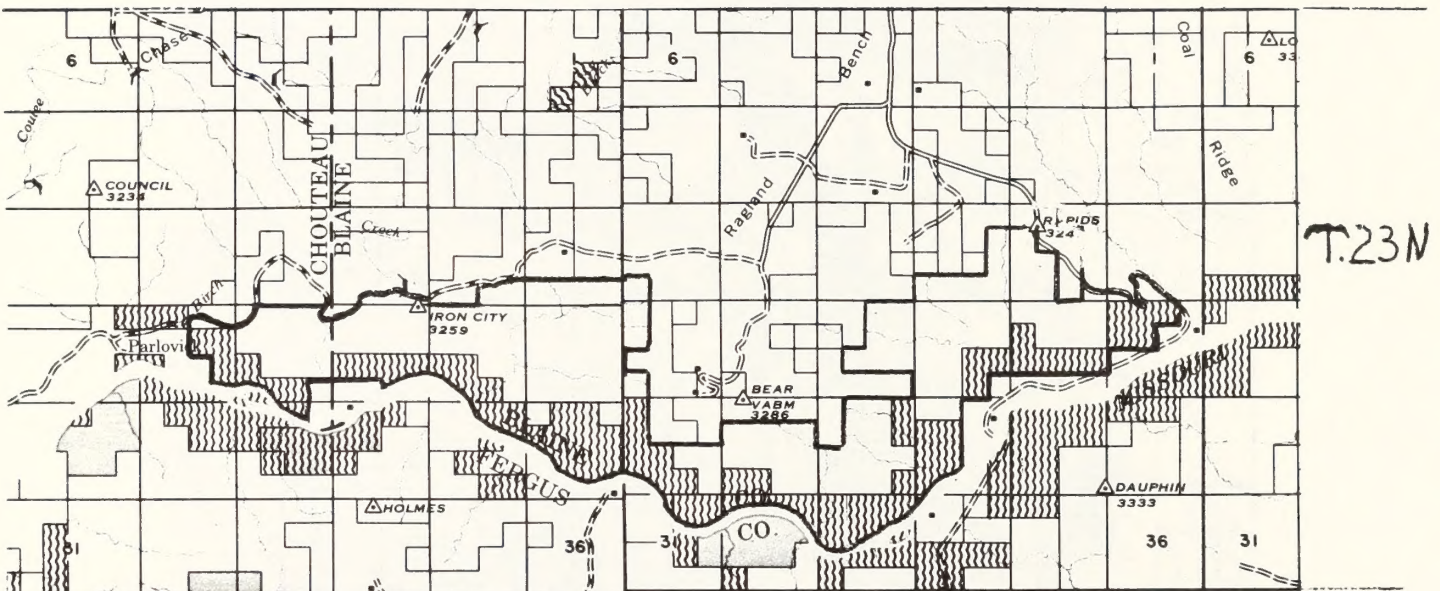
R.16 E



T.22 N

T.23 N L-249-D

Stafford Unit No. MT-066-250

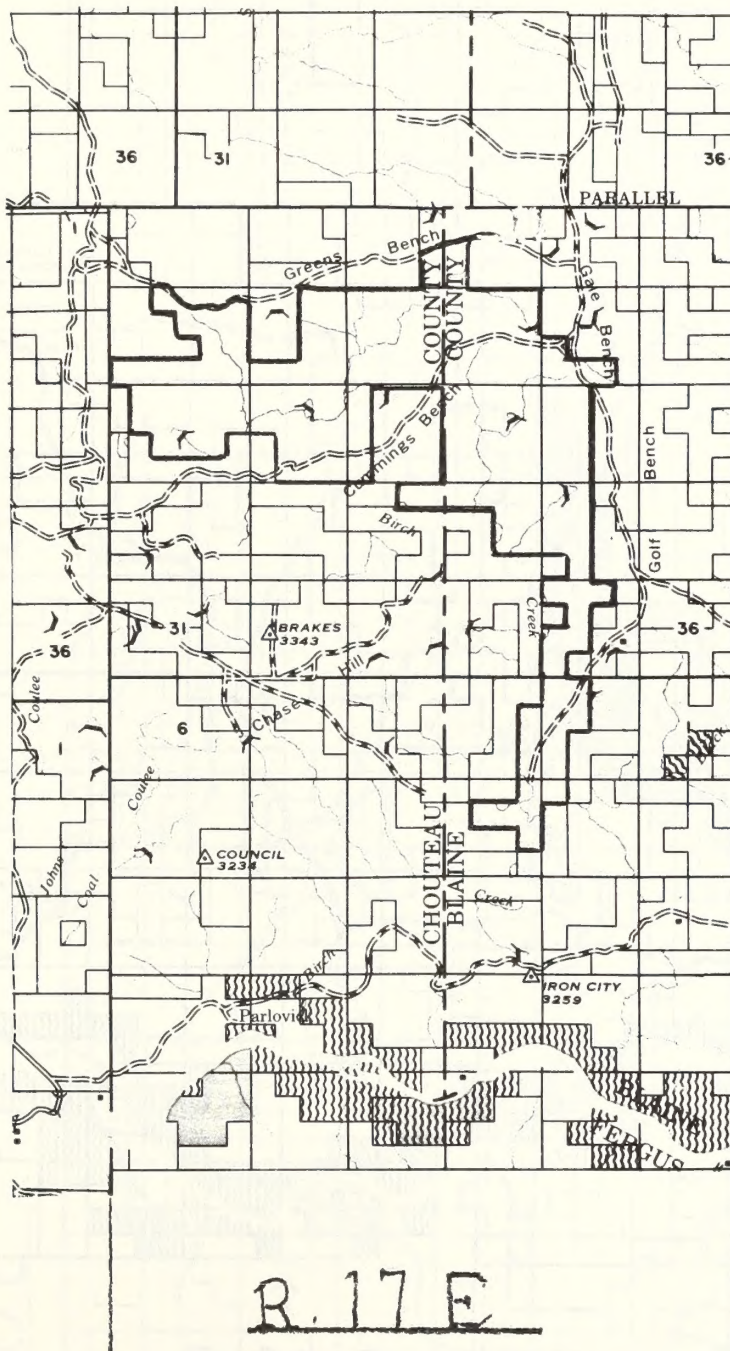


R. 17 E

R. 18 E

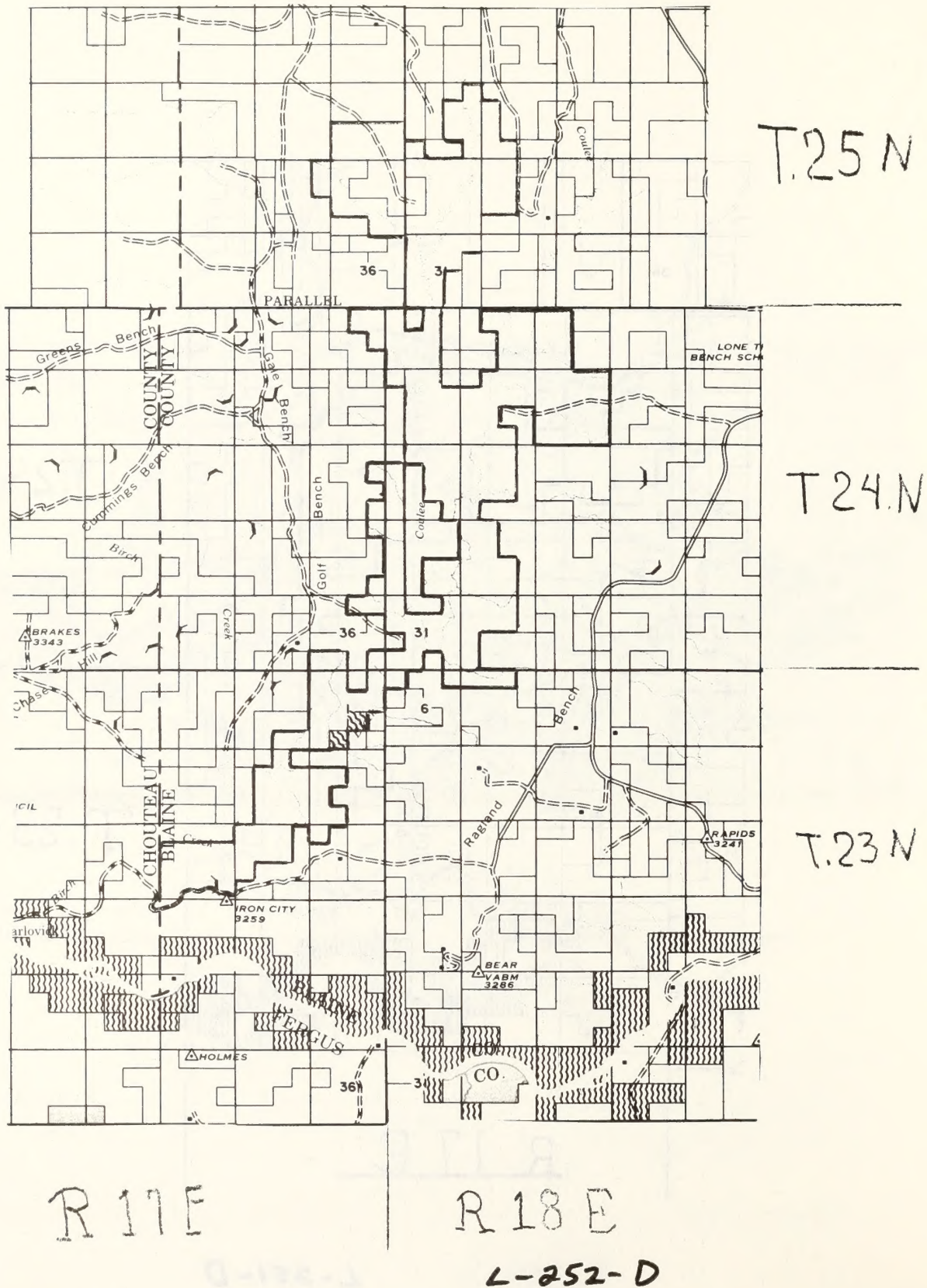
L-250-D

Cummings Bench Unit No. MT-066-251



L-251-D

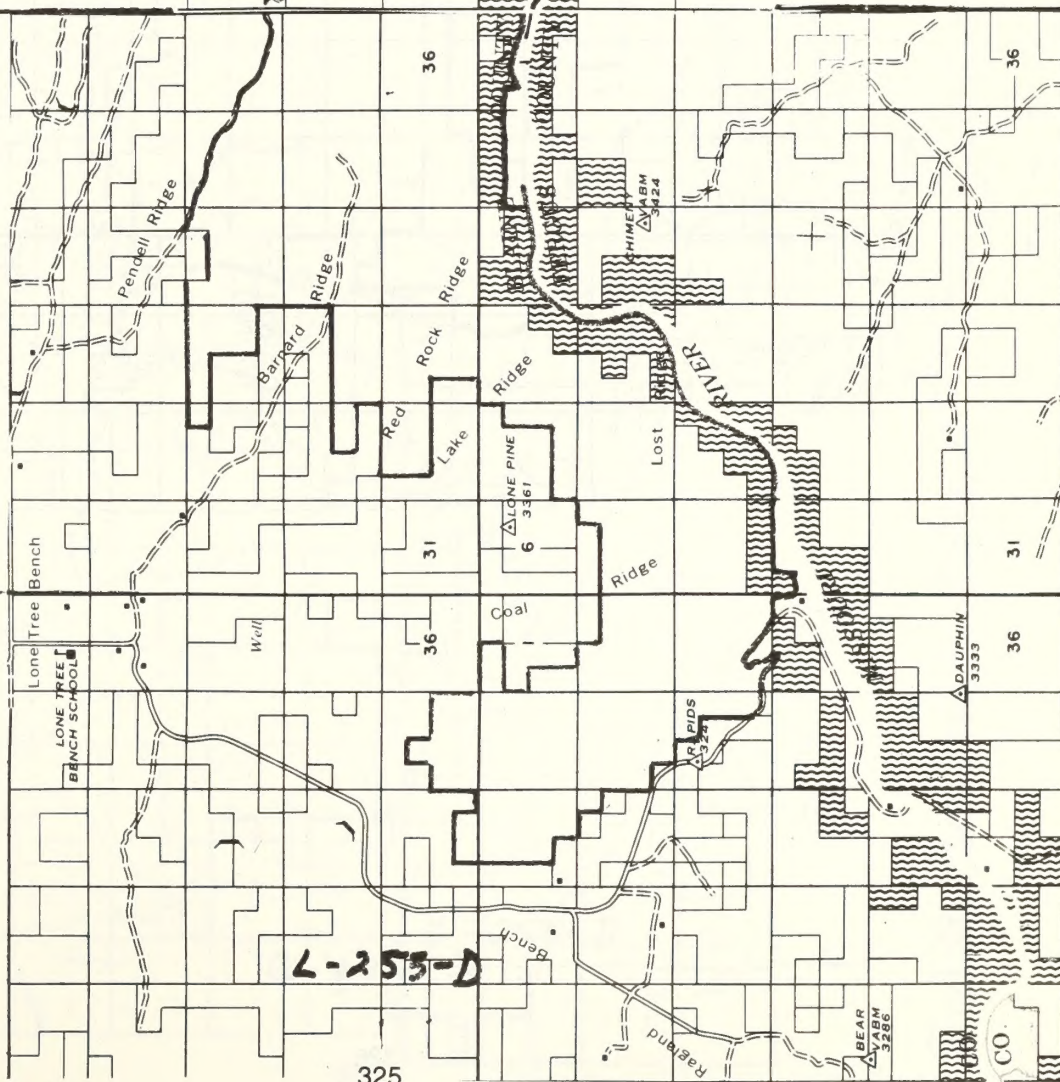
Black Elk Coulee: Unit No MT-066-252



Ervin Ridge Unit No. MT-066-253

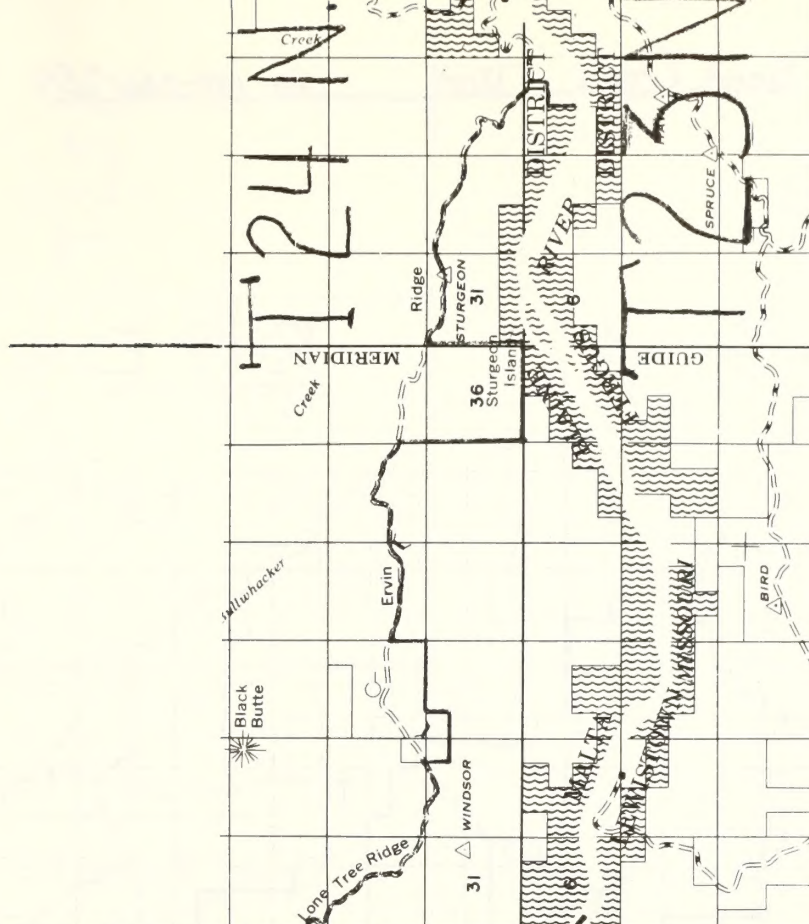
R18E

R19E



R20E

R21E



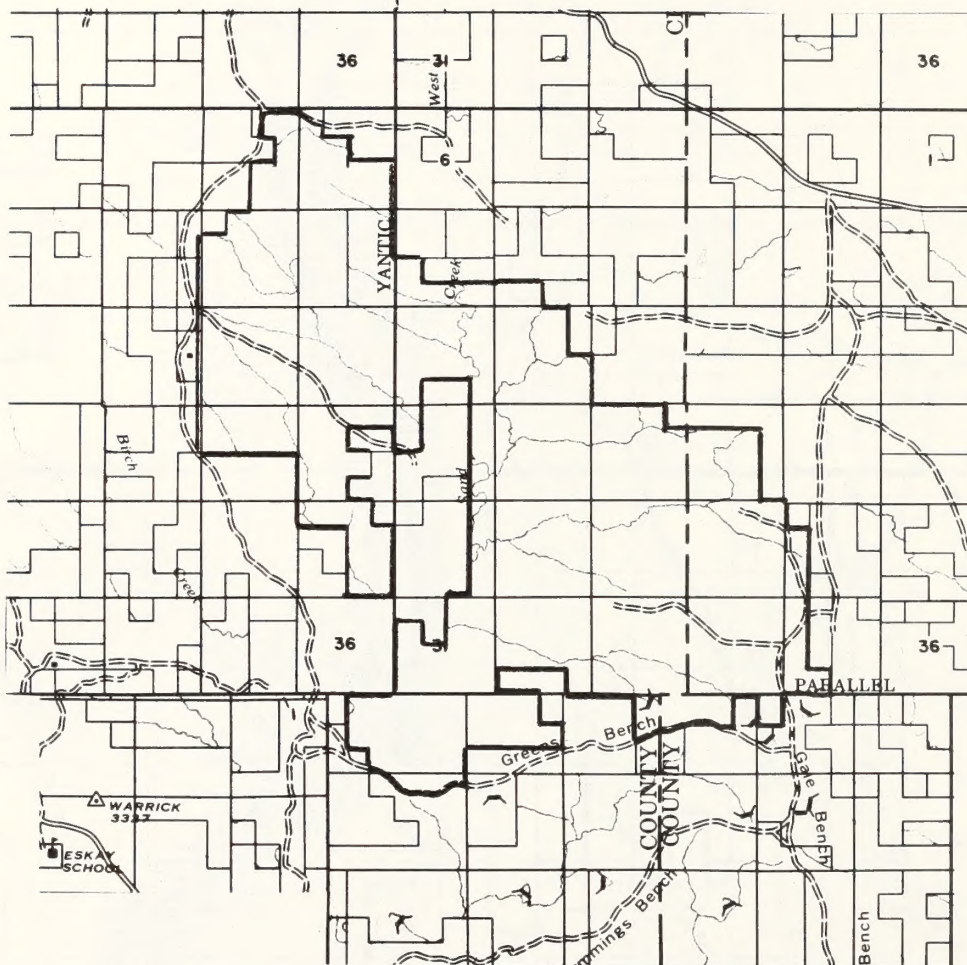
T24N

T25N

"Sand Creek" Unit No. M1-066-254

R 16 E

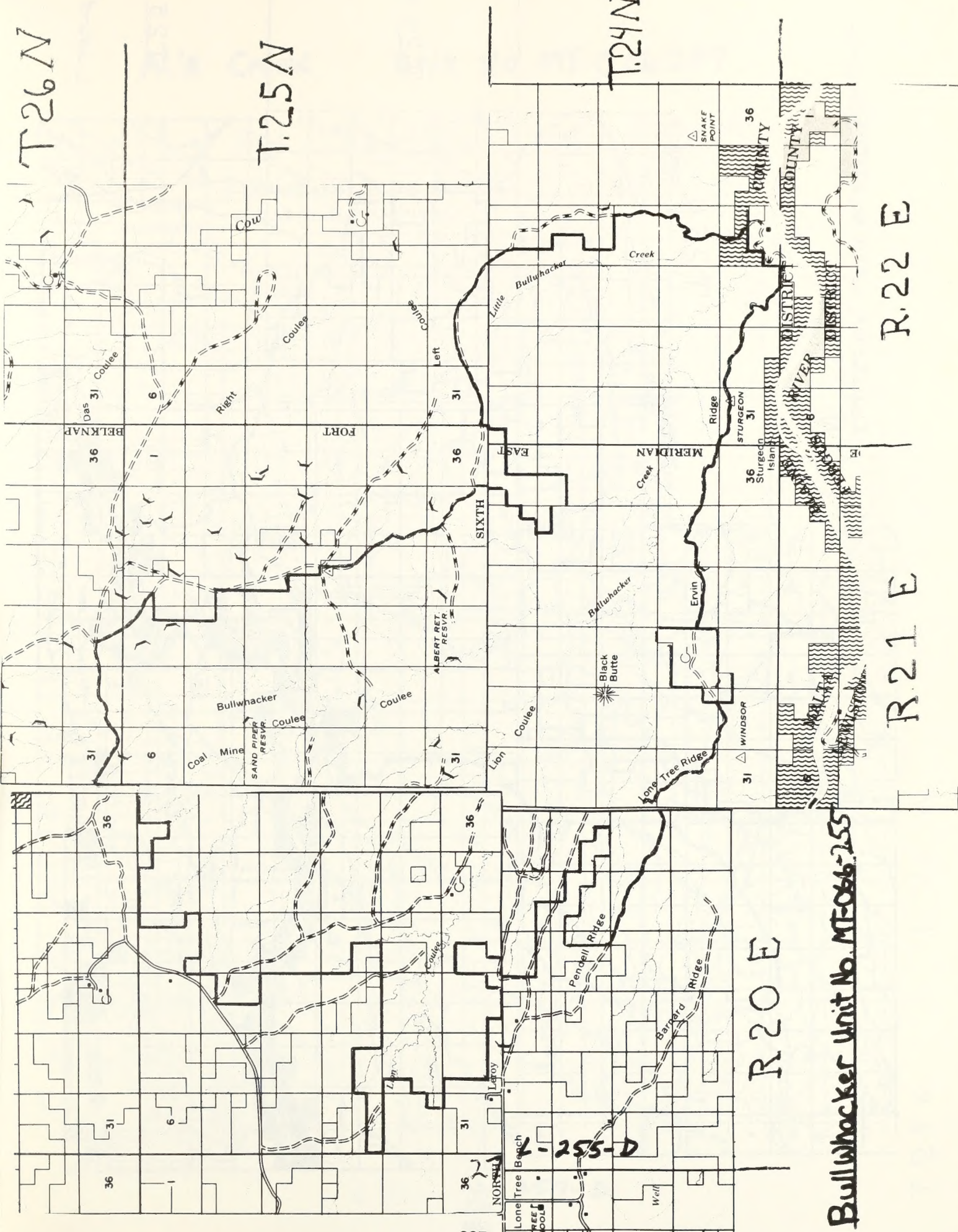
R 17 E.



T 25 N.

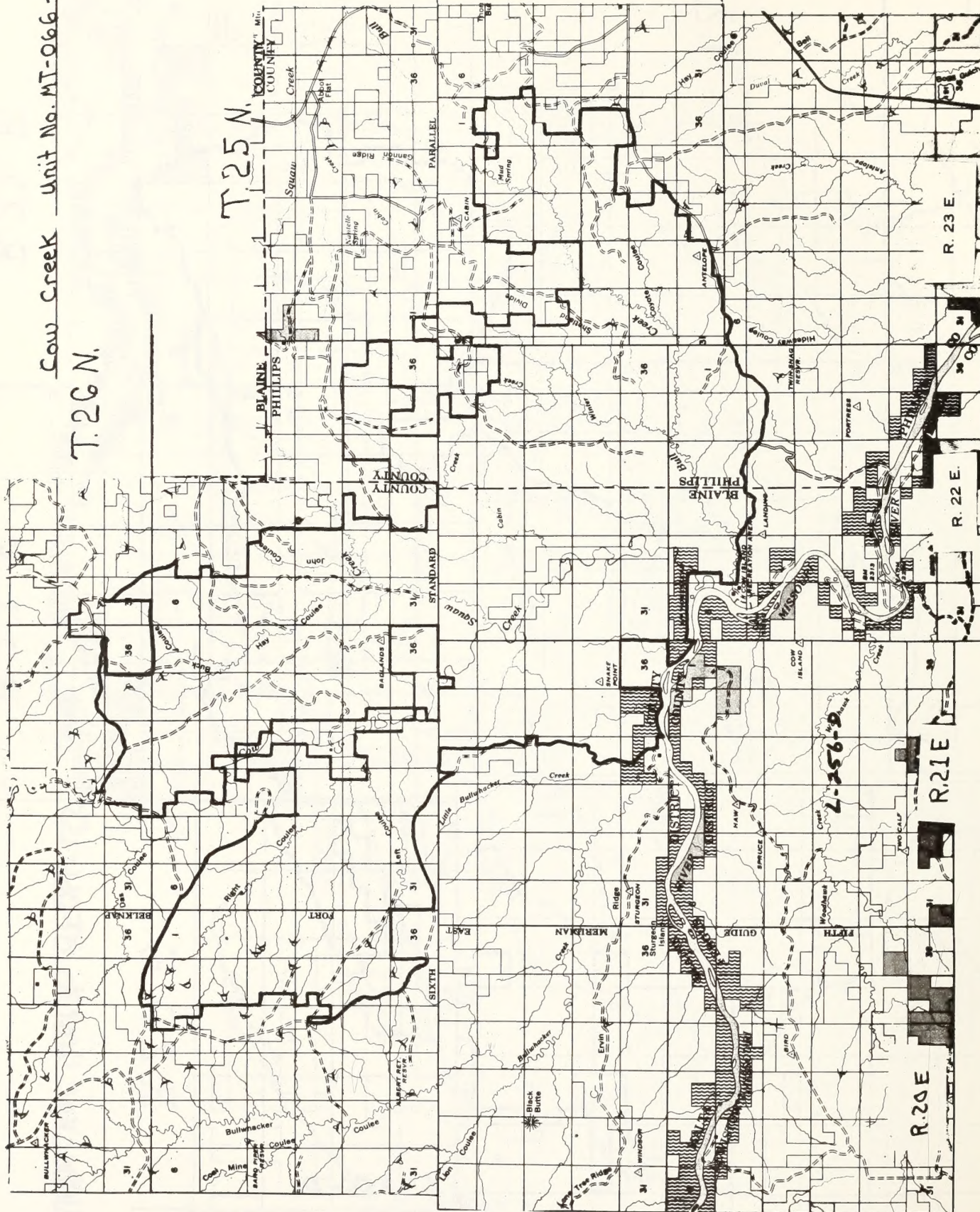
T 24 N

L-254-D



Cow Creek Unit No. MT-066 -

T. 26 N.



T. 24 N

T251

L-256-d

Unit No. MT-066-257

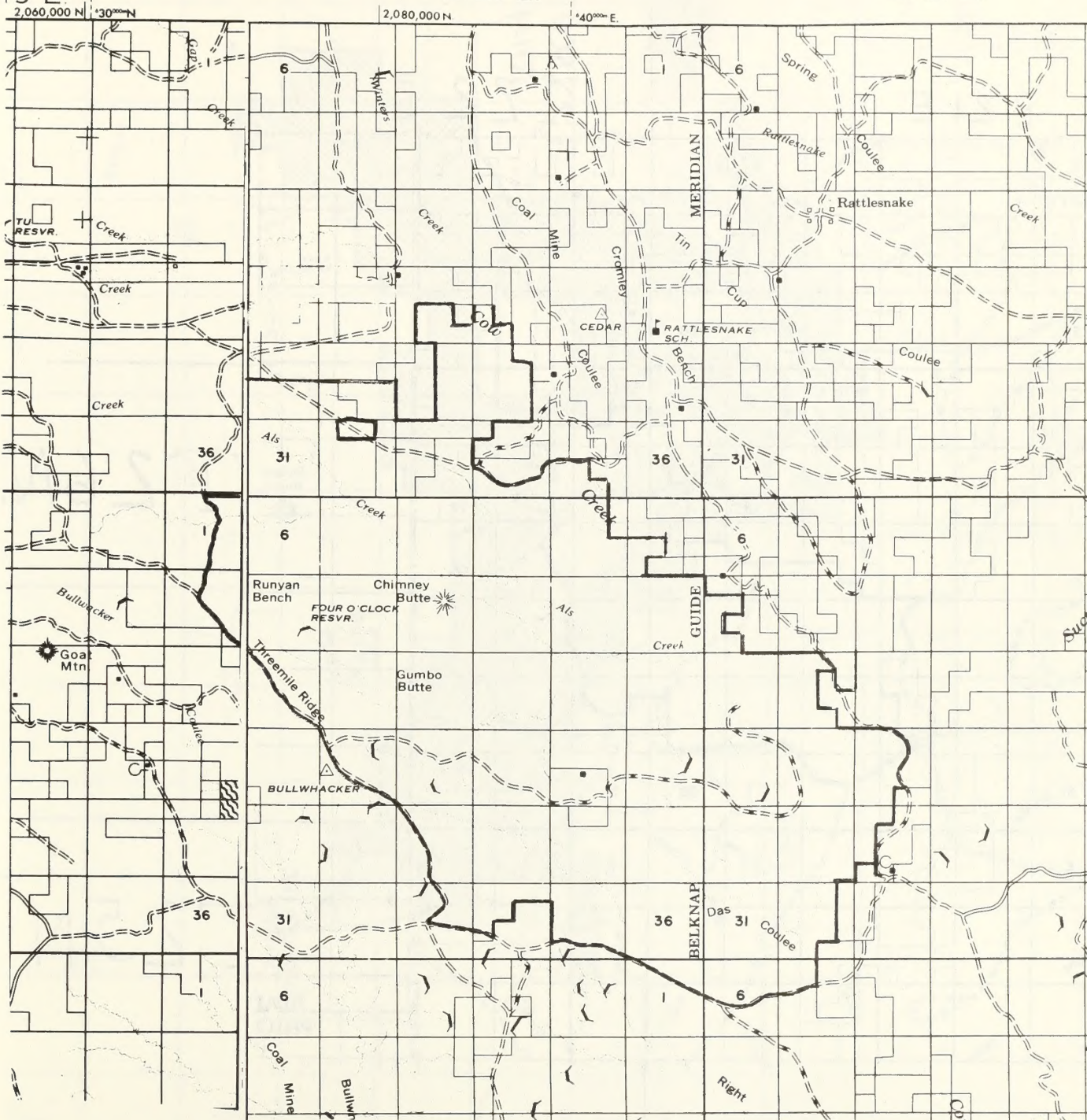
LEROY
 (PLANIMETRIC)

S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

9 E.
2,060,000 N || 30,000 N

R. 20 E.

R. 21 E.



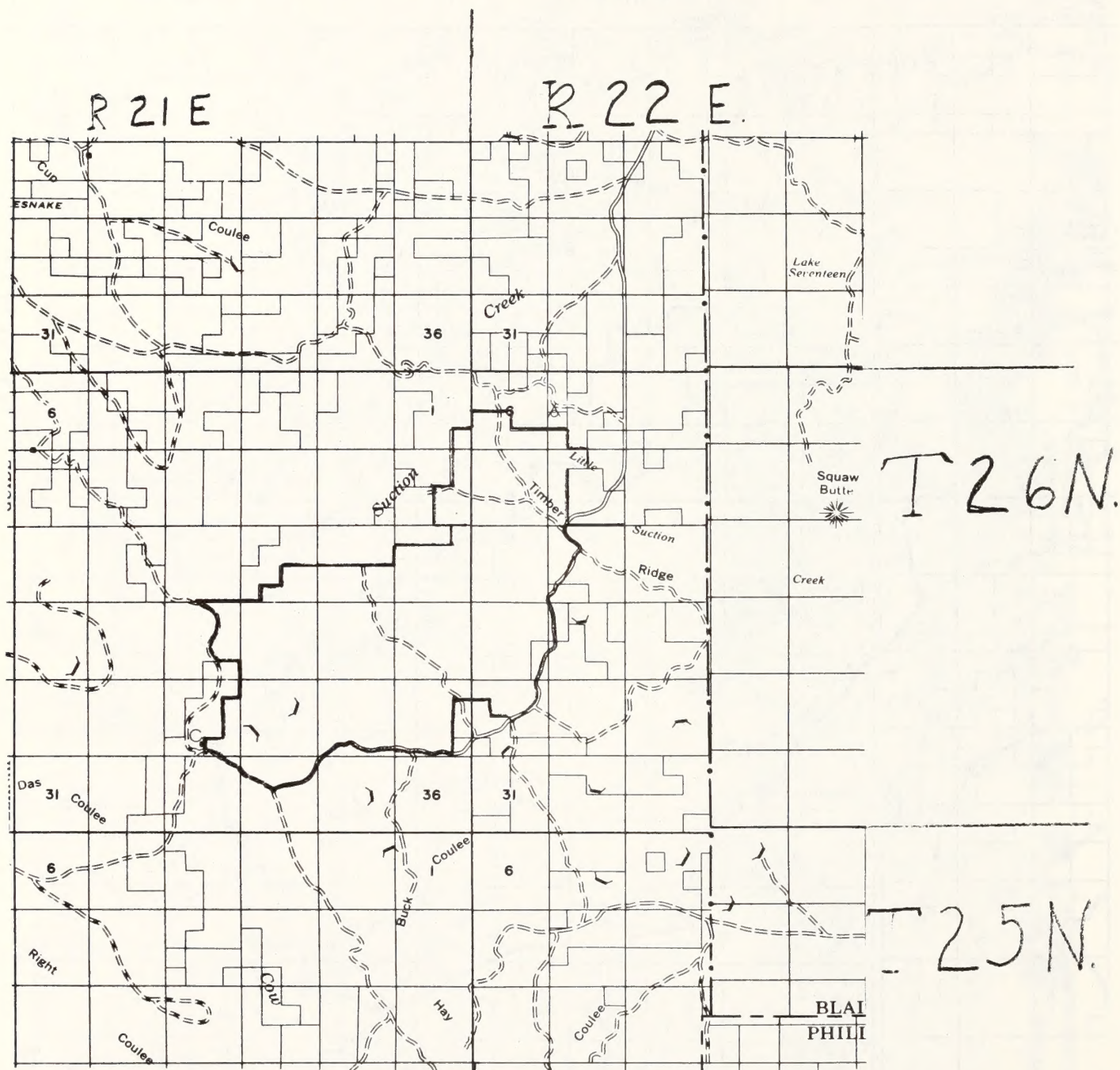
127

2971

1552

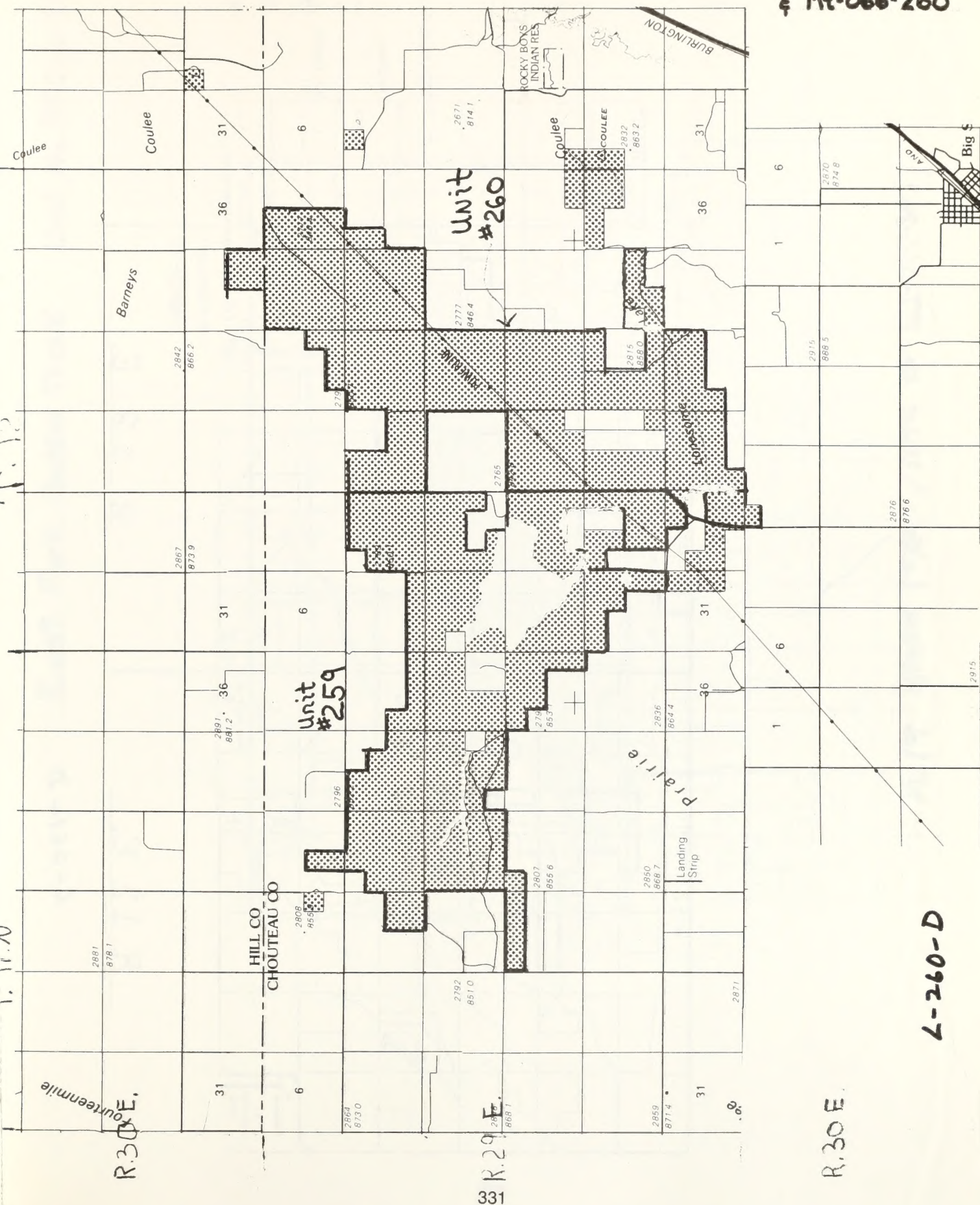
L-257-D
329

Timber Ridge" Unit No. MT-066-258

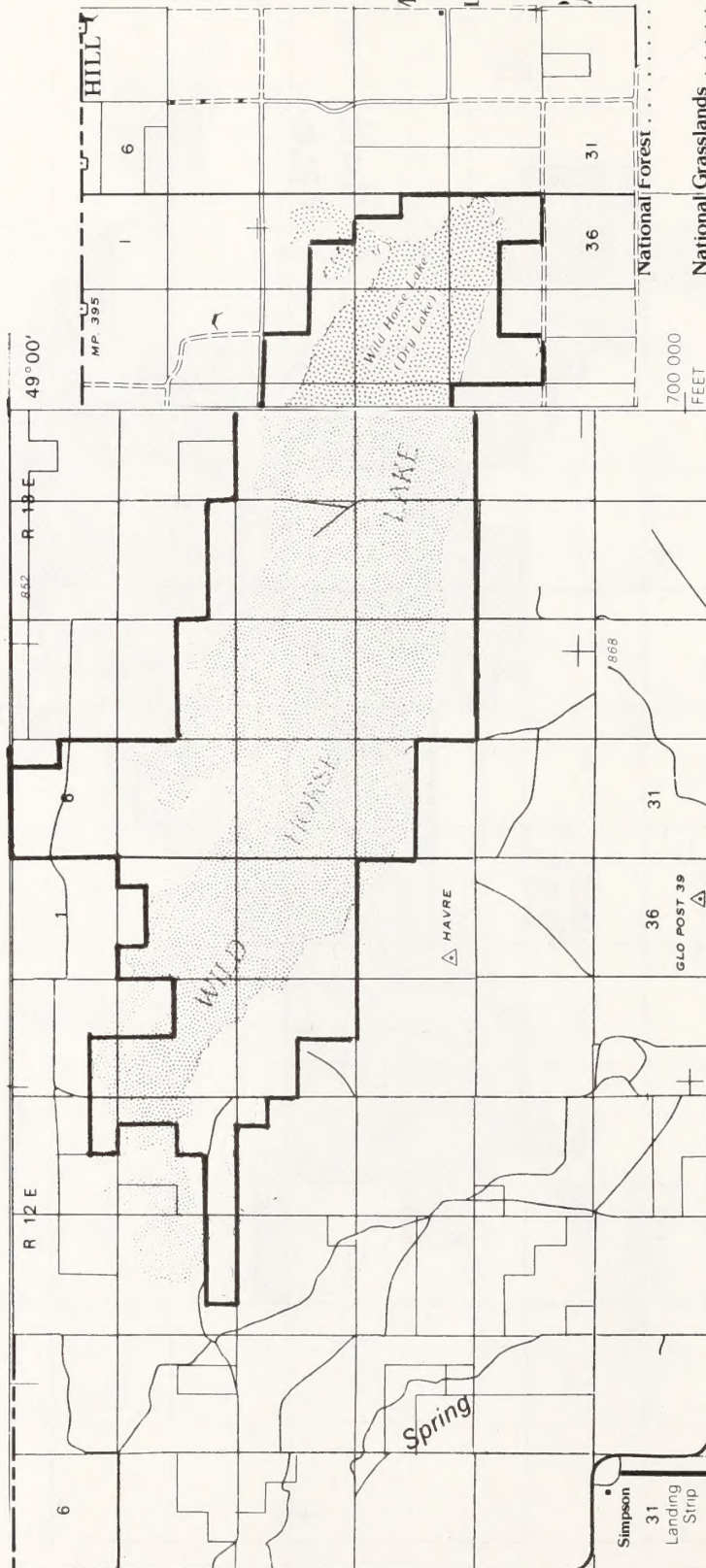


West Longsaw Lake; East Longsaw Lake. Unit No's Mt-066-259.

& Mt-066-260

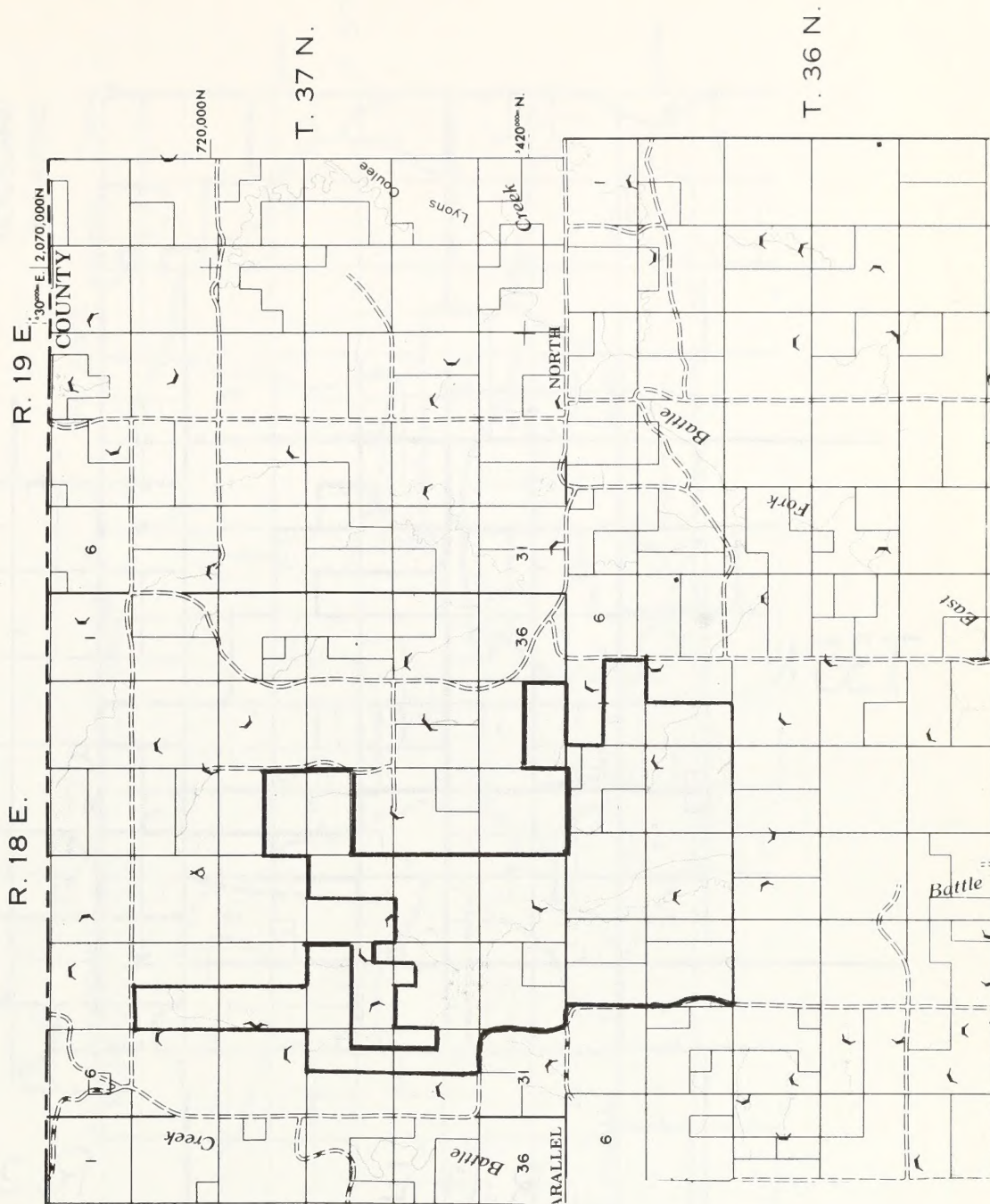


Wild Horse Lake :: Unit No. MT-066-261

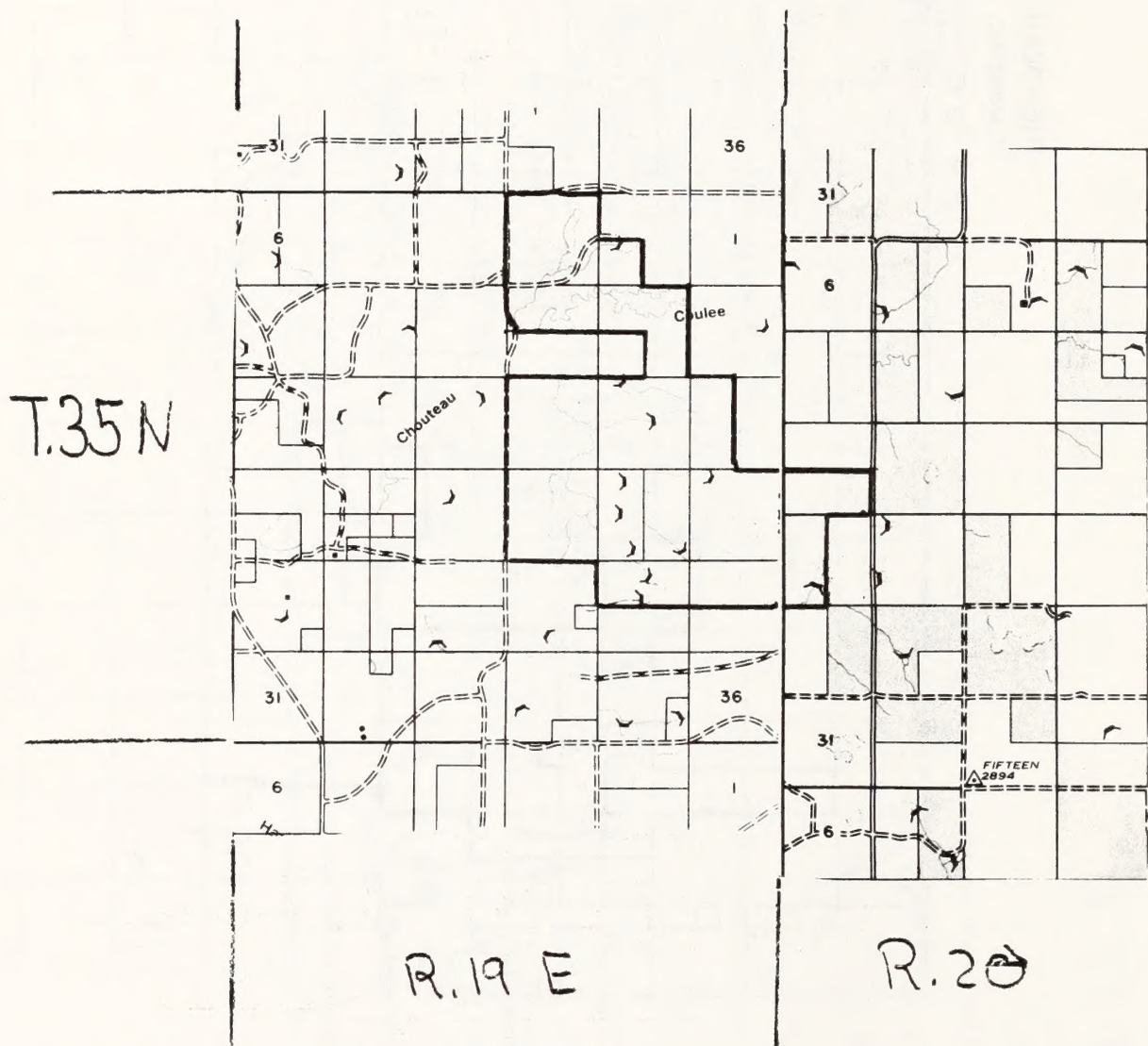


East Fork Battle Creek Unit No. M7066-262

THIBADEAU
(PLANIMETRIC)



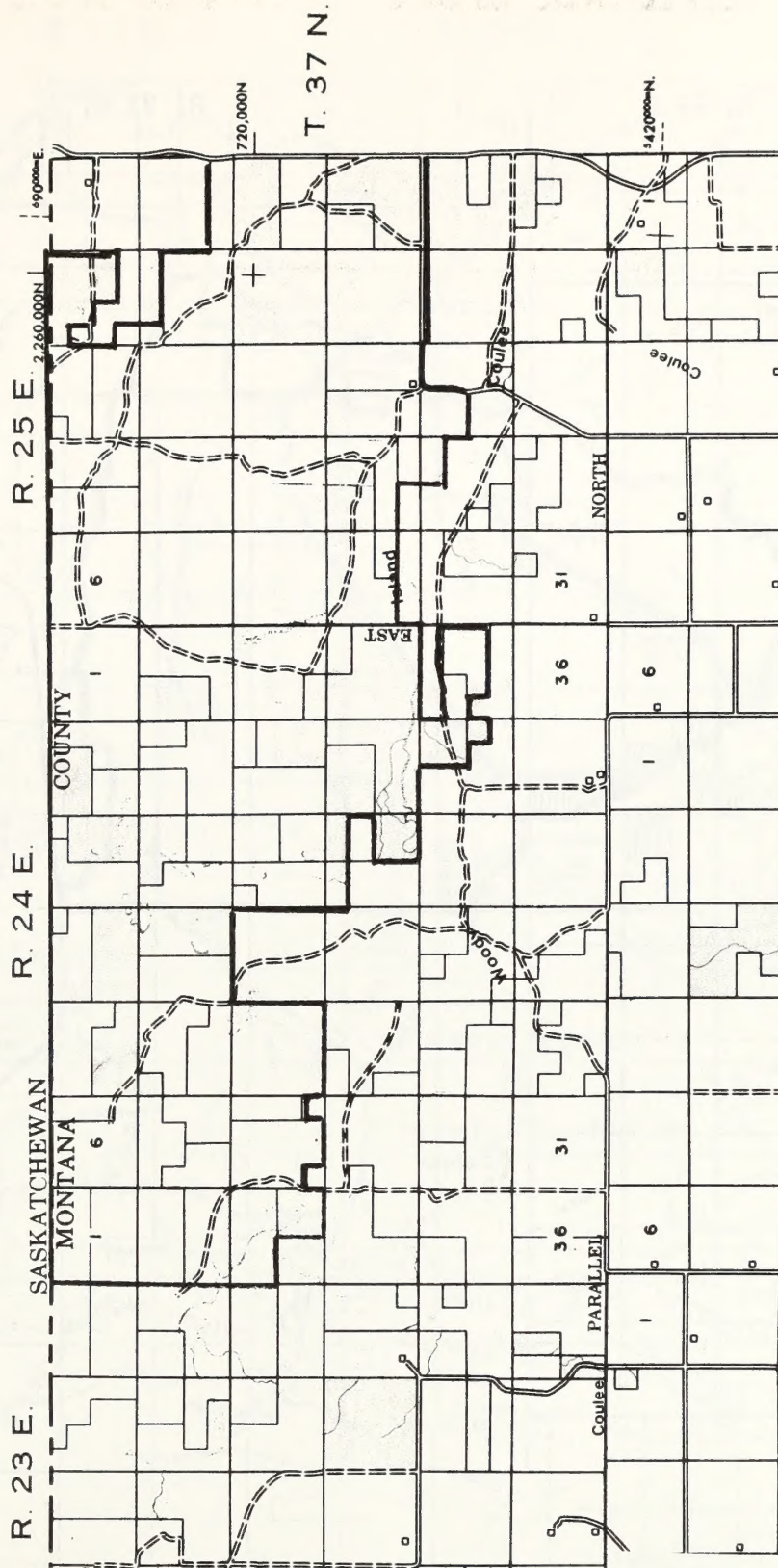
Chateau Creek Mt-066-263



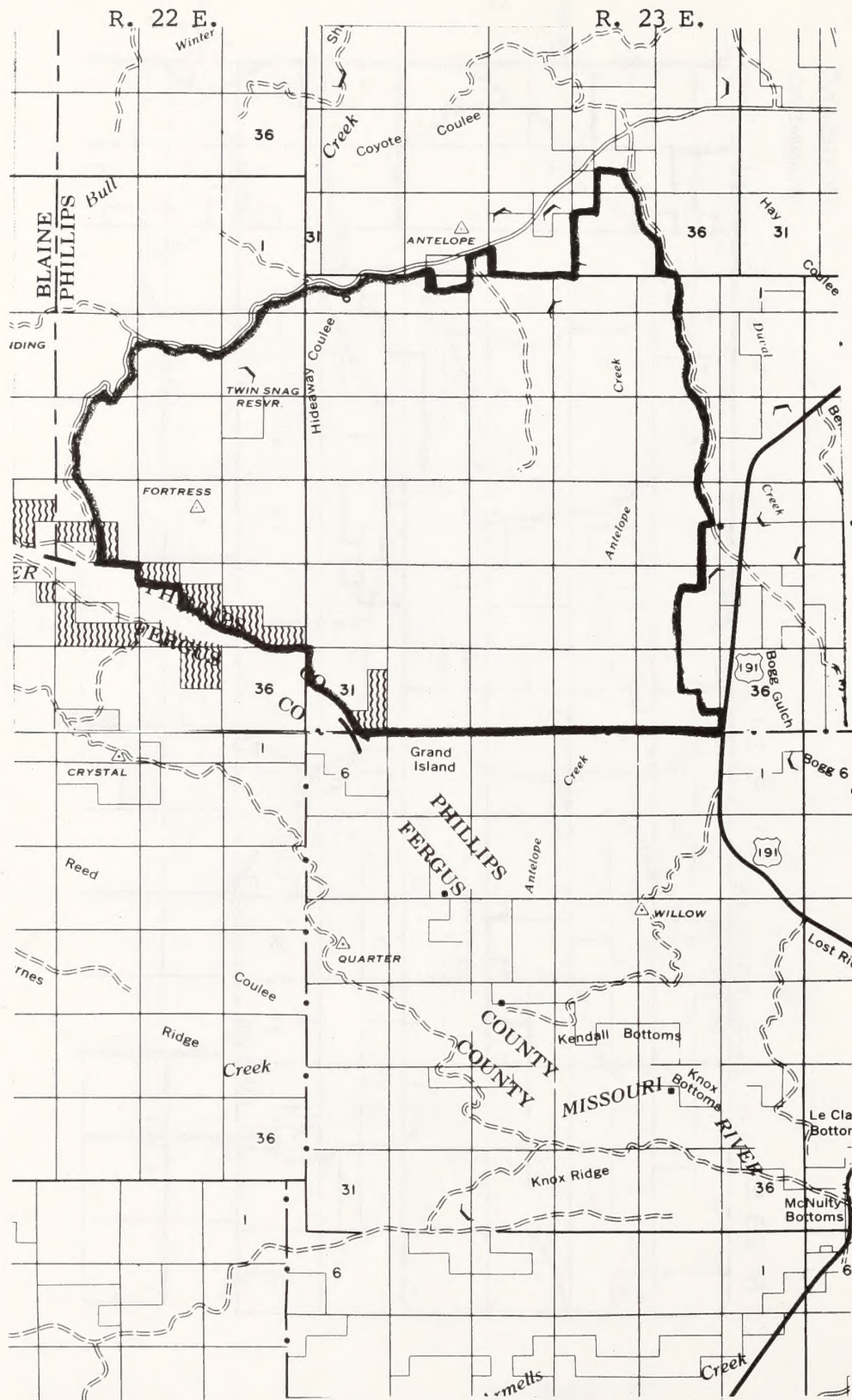
L-263-D

Woody Island Coulee Unit No. MT-066-264

HOGELAND
(PLANIMETRIC)



Antelope Creek #266

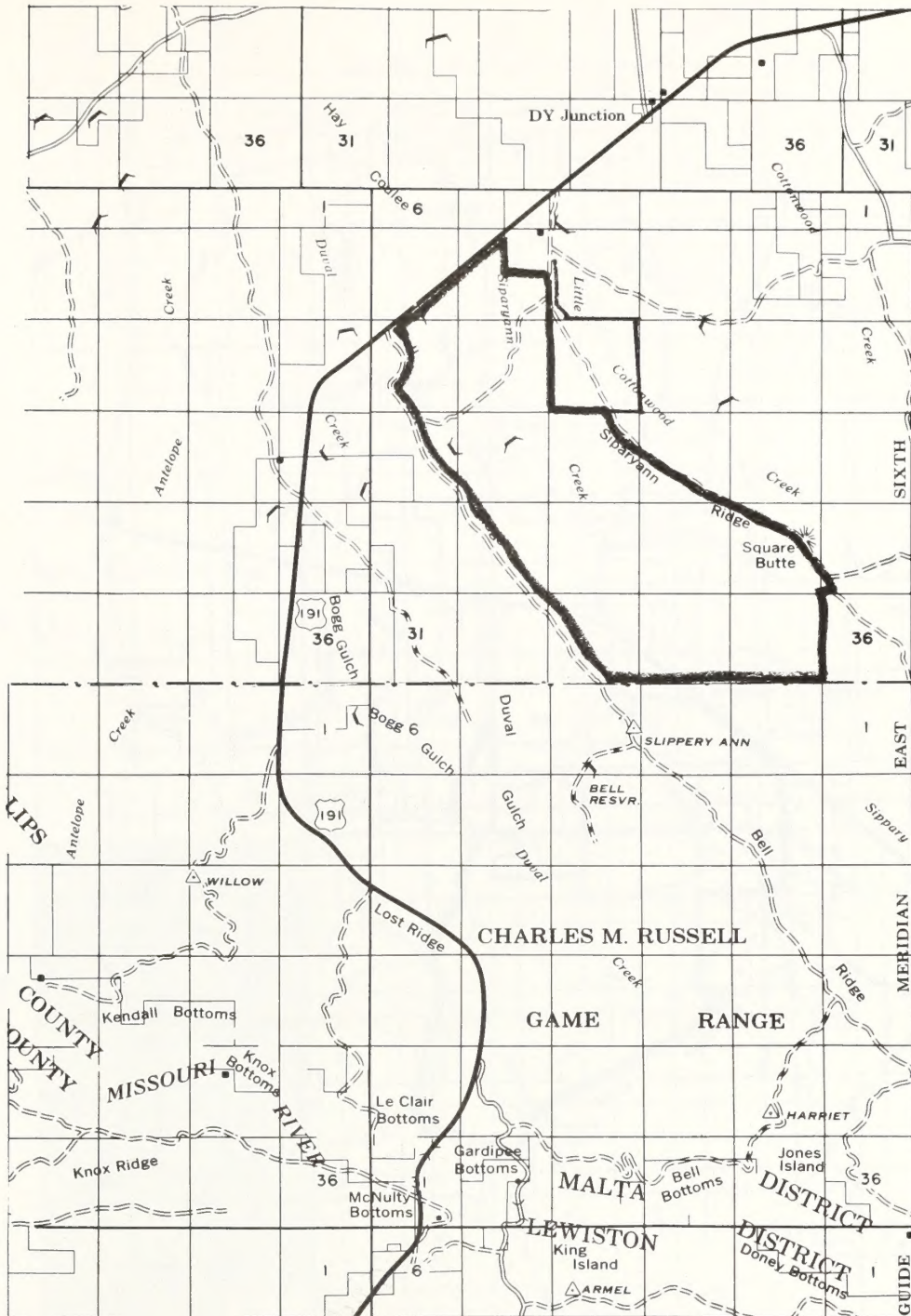


L-266-D

Cyprian Creek #268

R. 23 E.

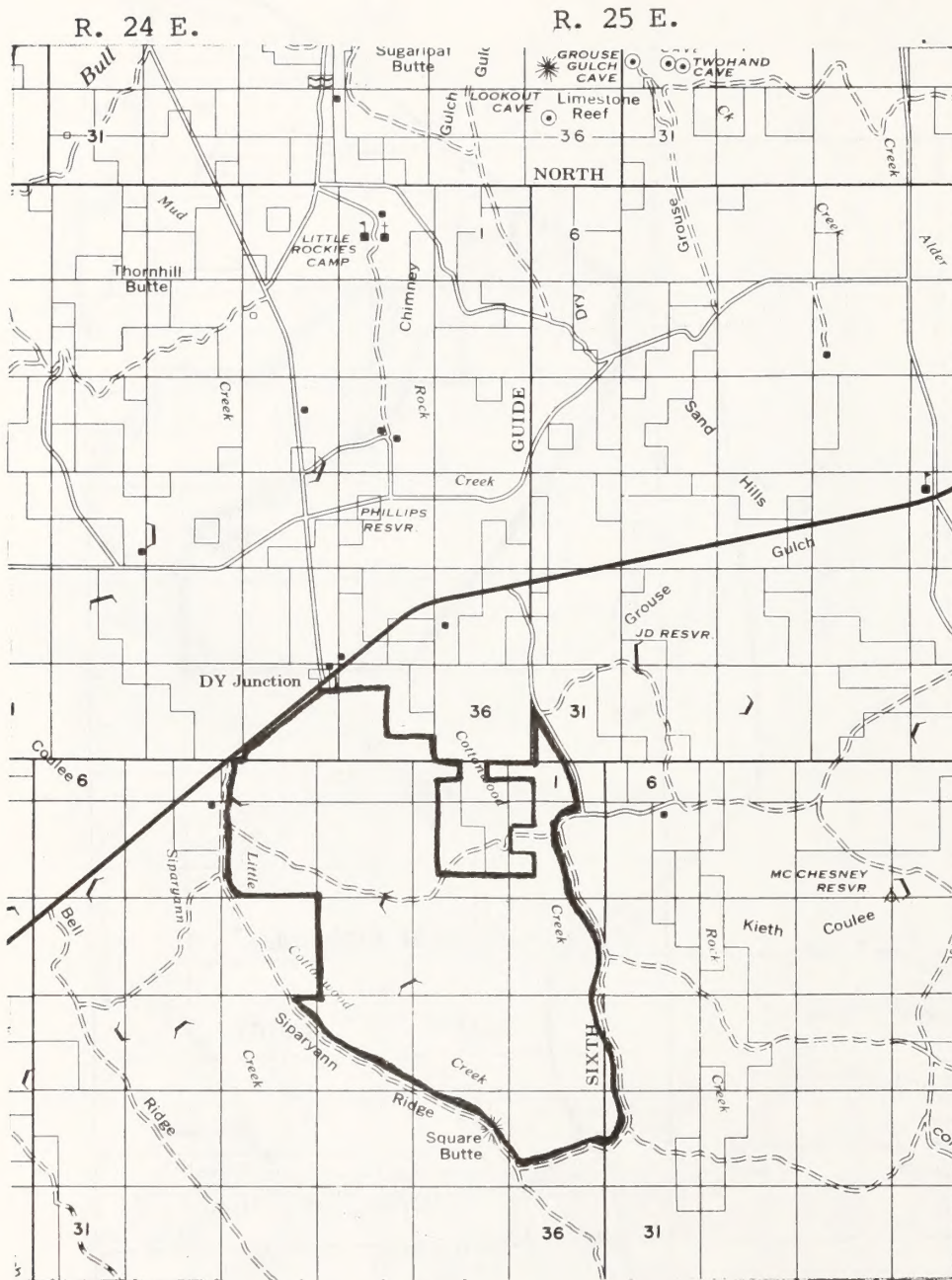
R. 24 E.



T. 23 N.

L-268-D

LeVelle Creek #269

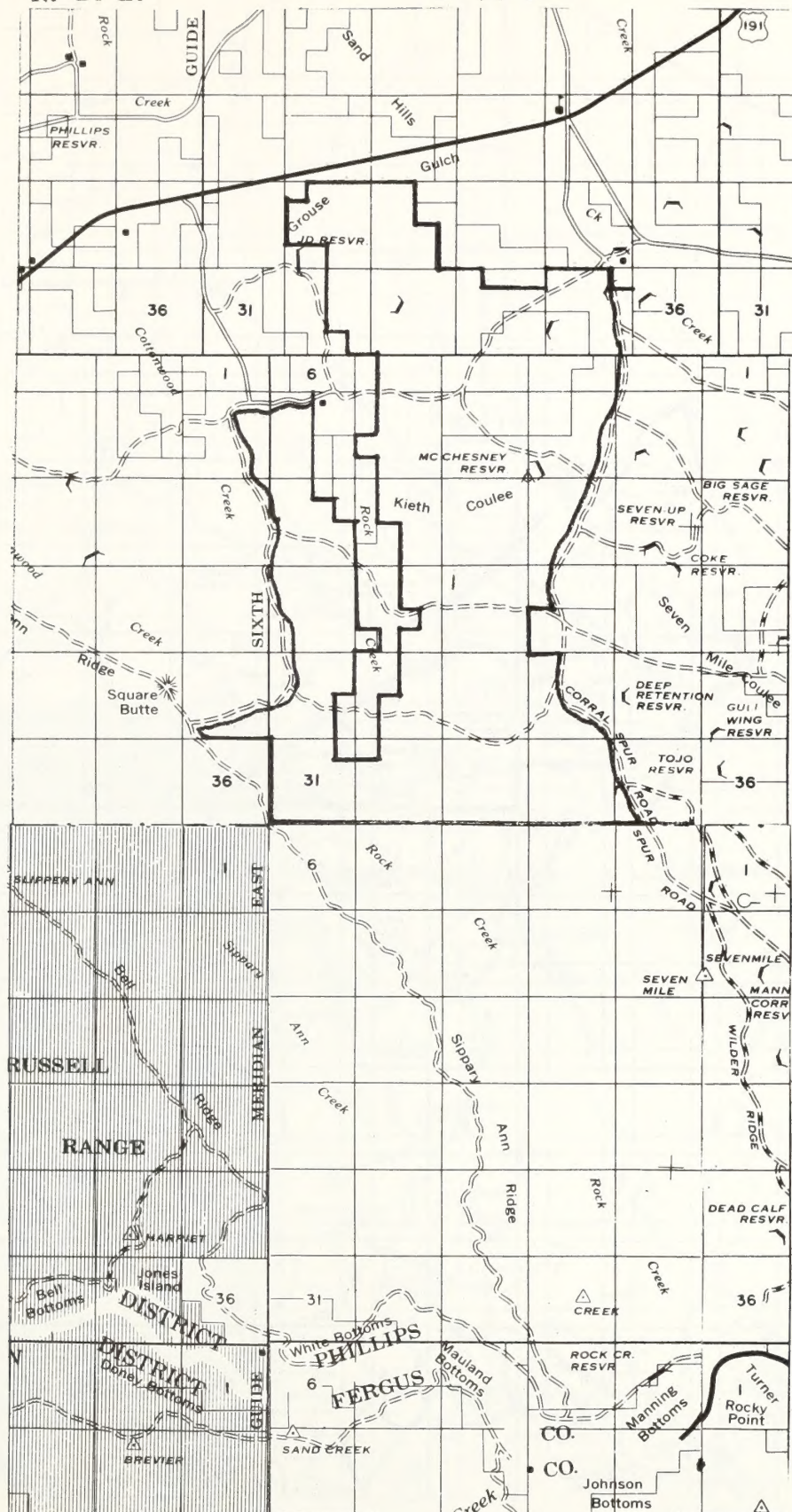


L-269-D

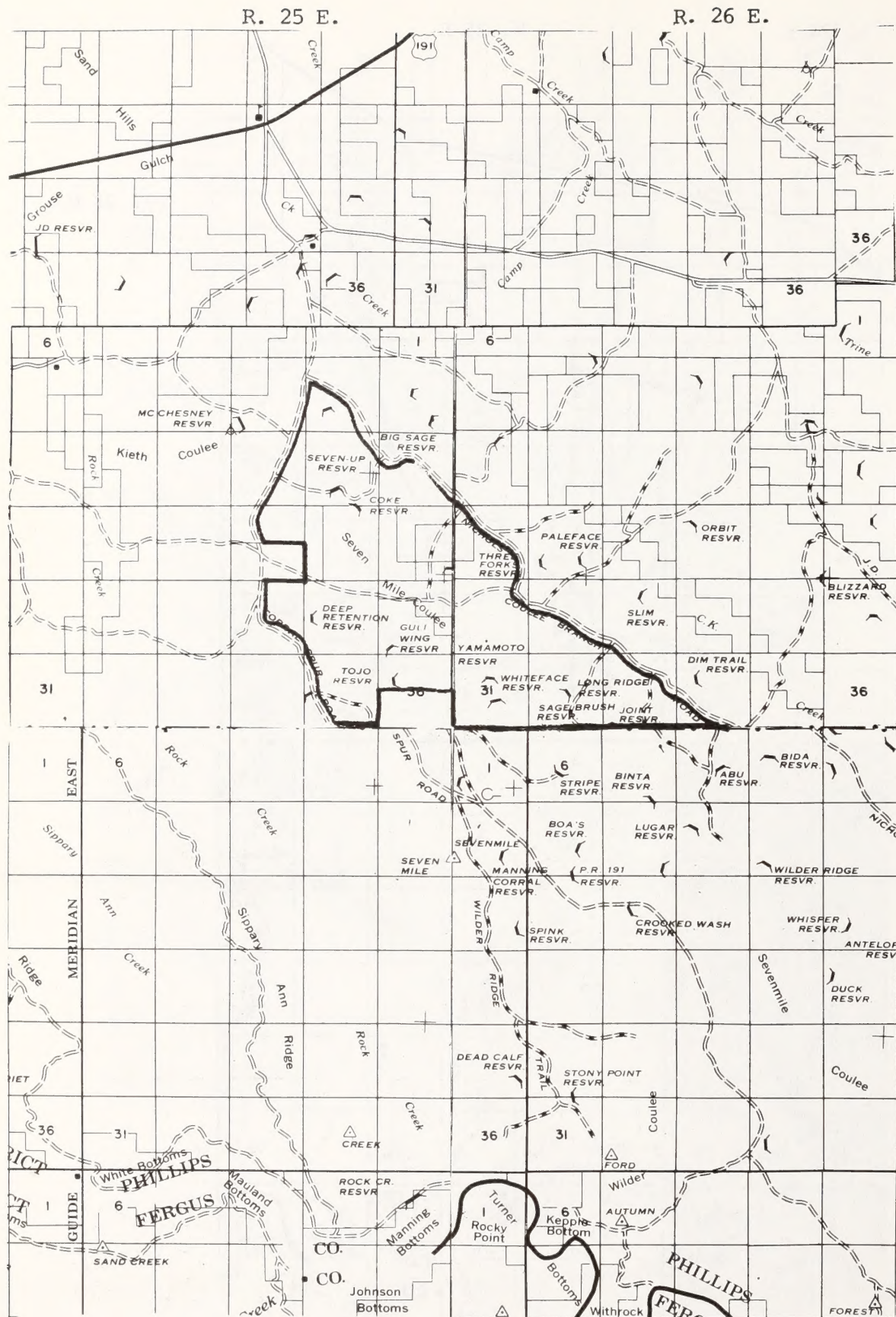
R. 25 E.

T. 24 N.

T. 23 N.

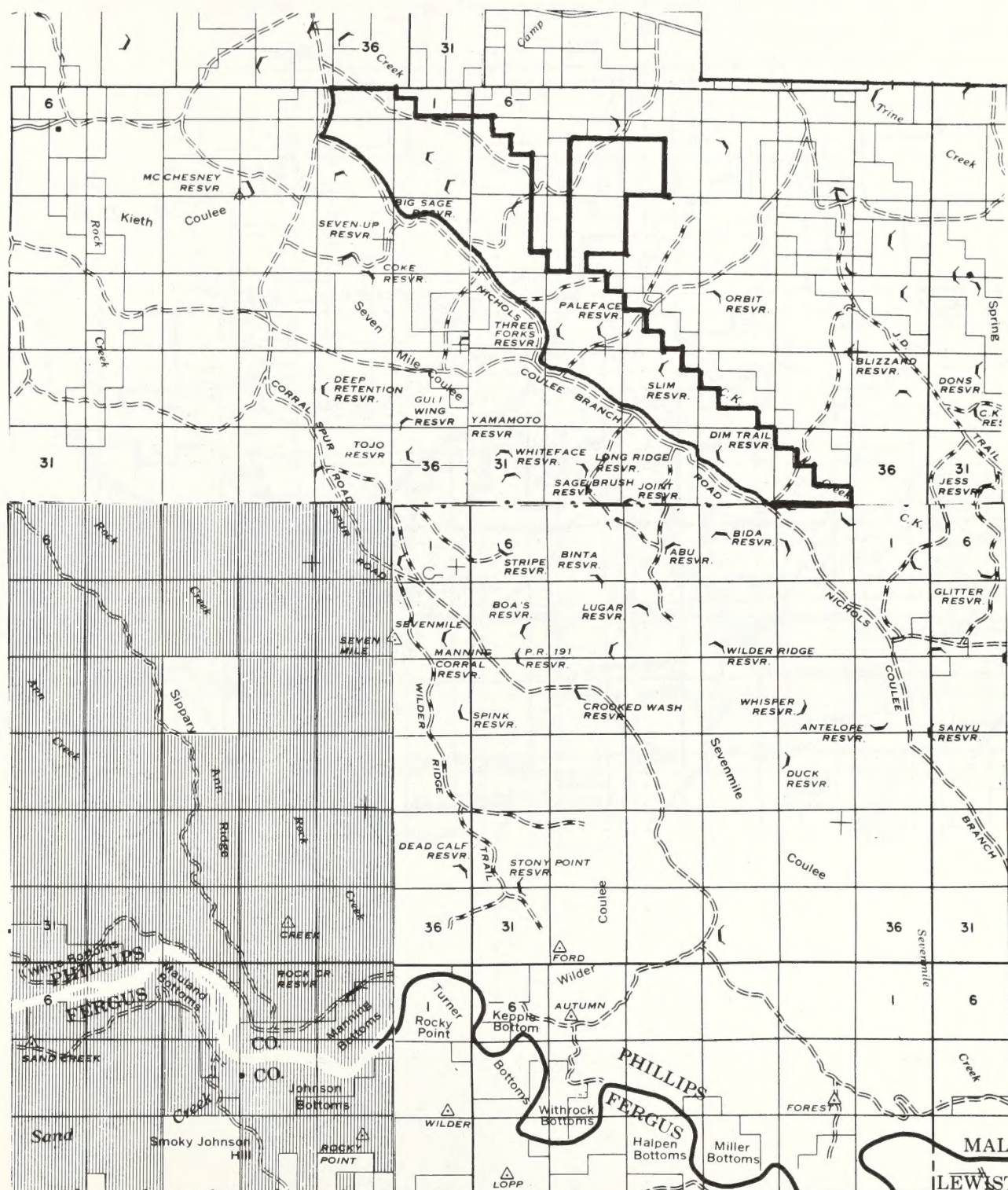


Seven-Mile Coulee #271



T. 23 N.

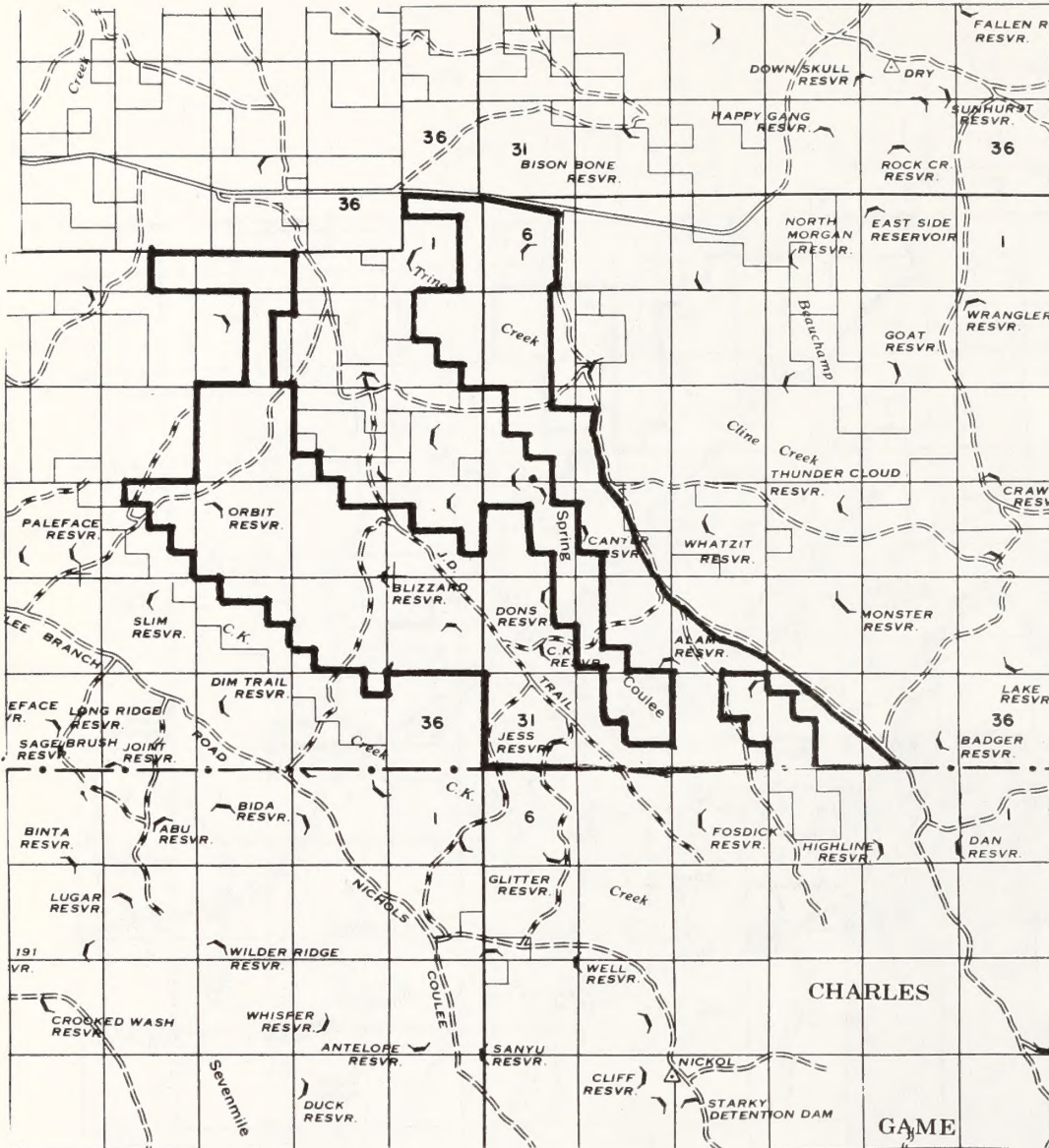
T. 23 N.



Spring Coulee #273

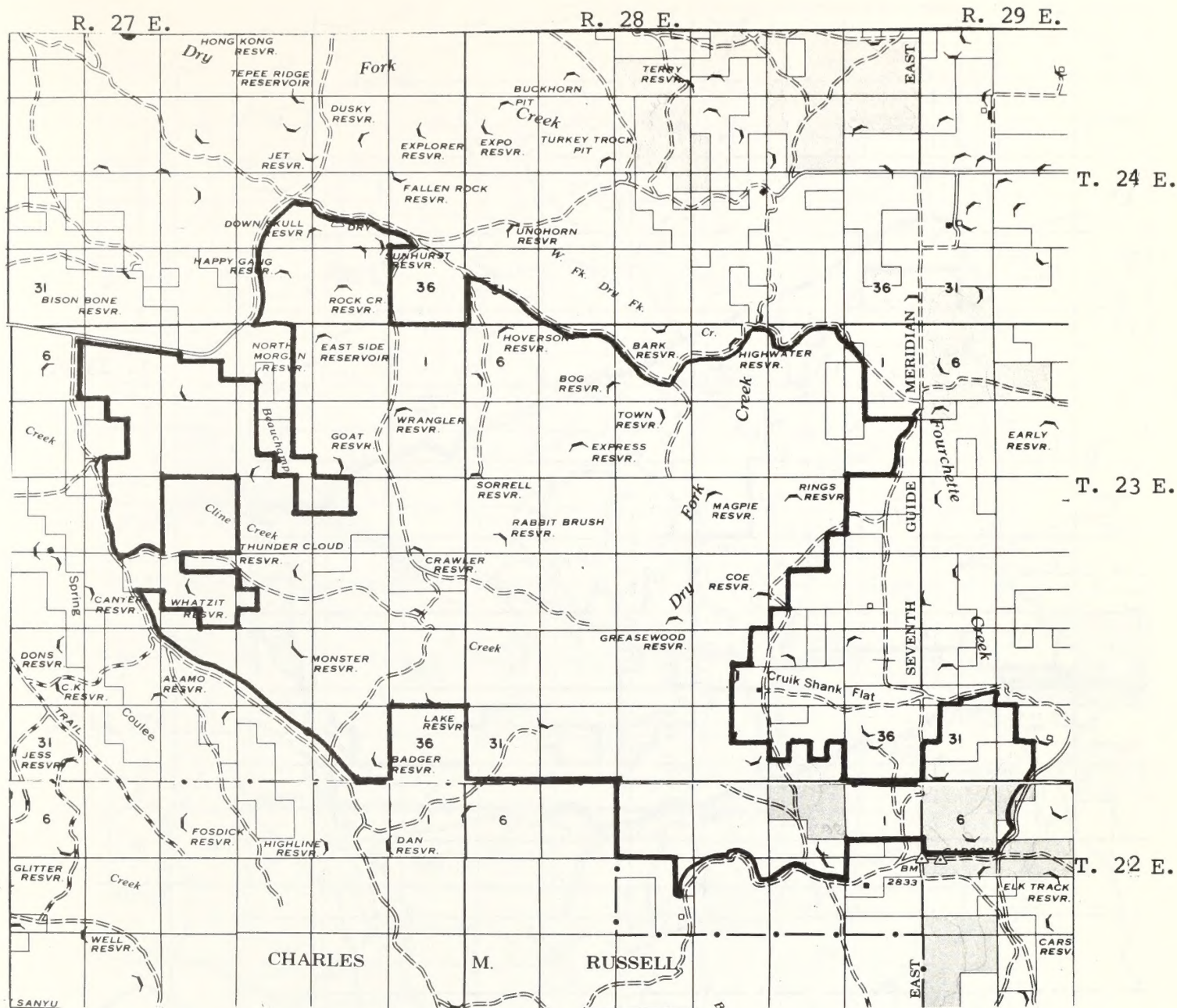
R. 26 E.

R. 27 E.



T. 23 N.

L-773-D

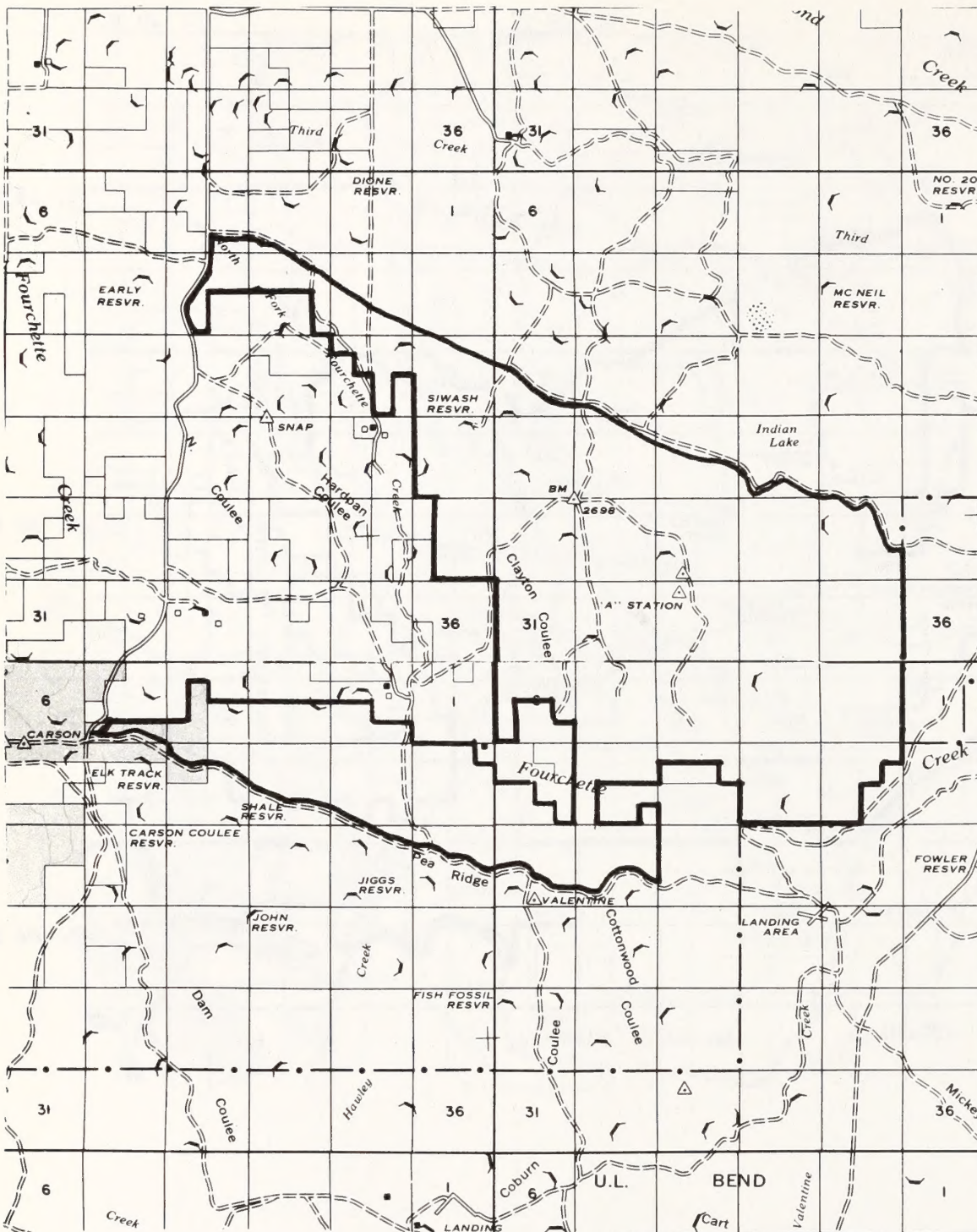


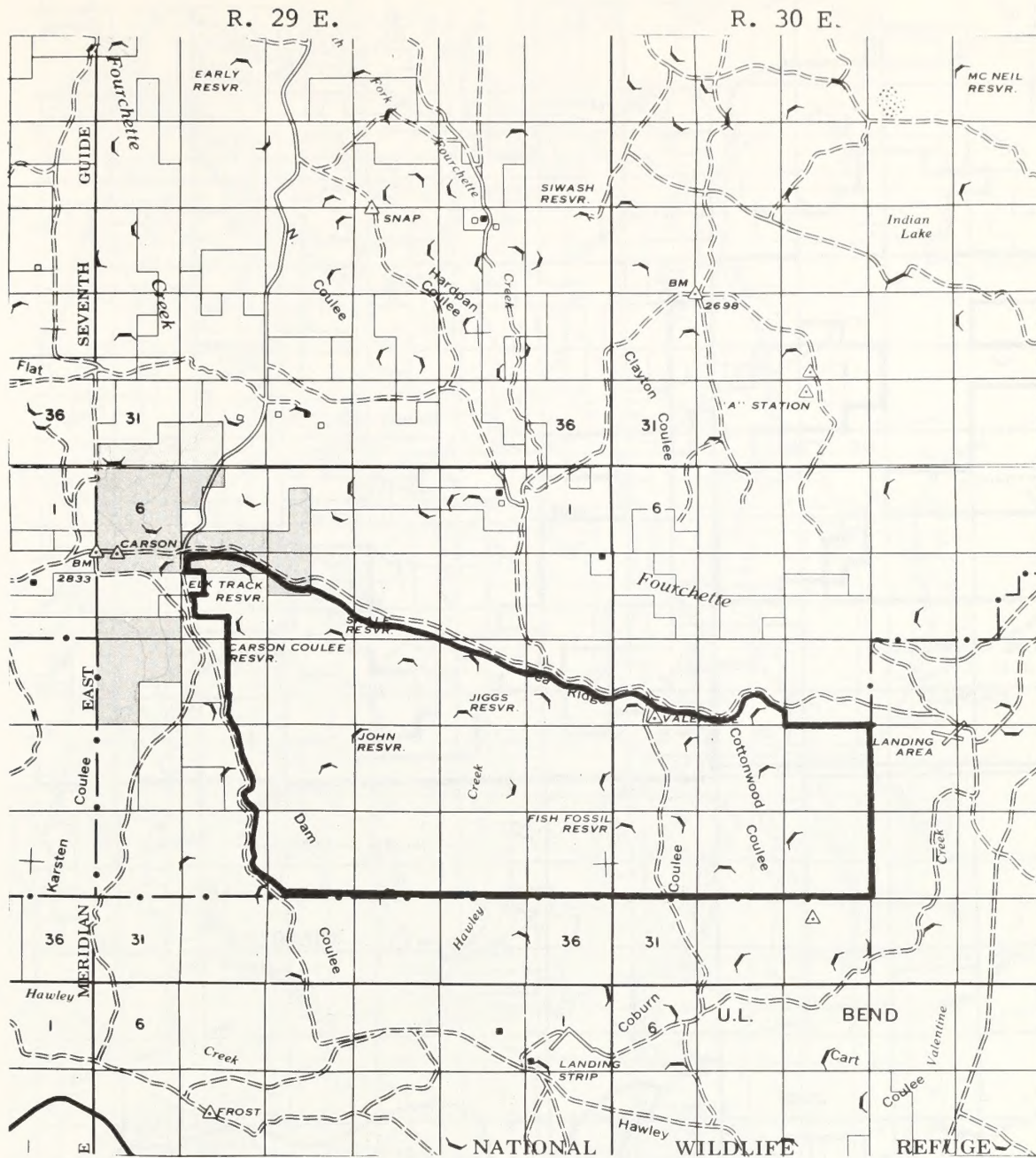
R. 29 E.

R. 30 E.

T. 23 N.

T. 22 N.



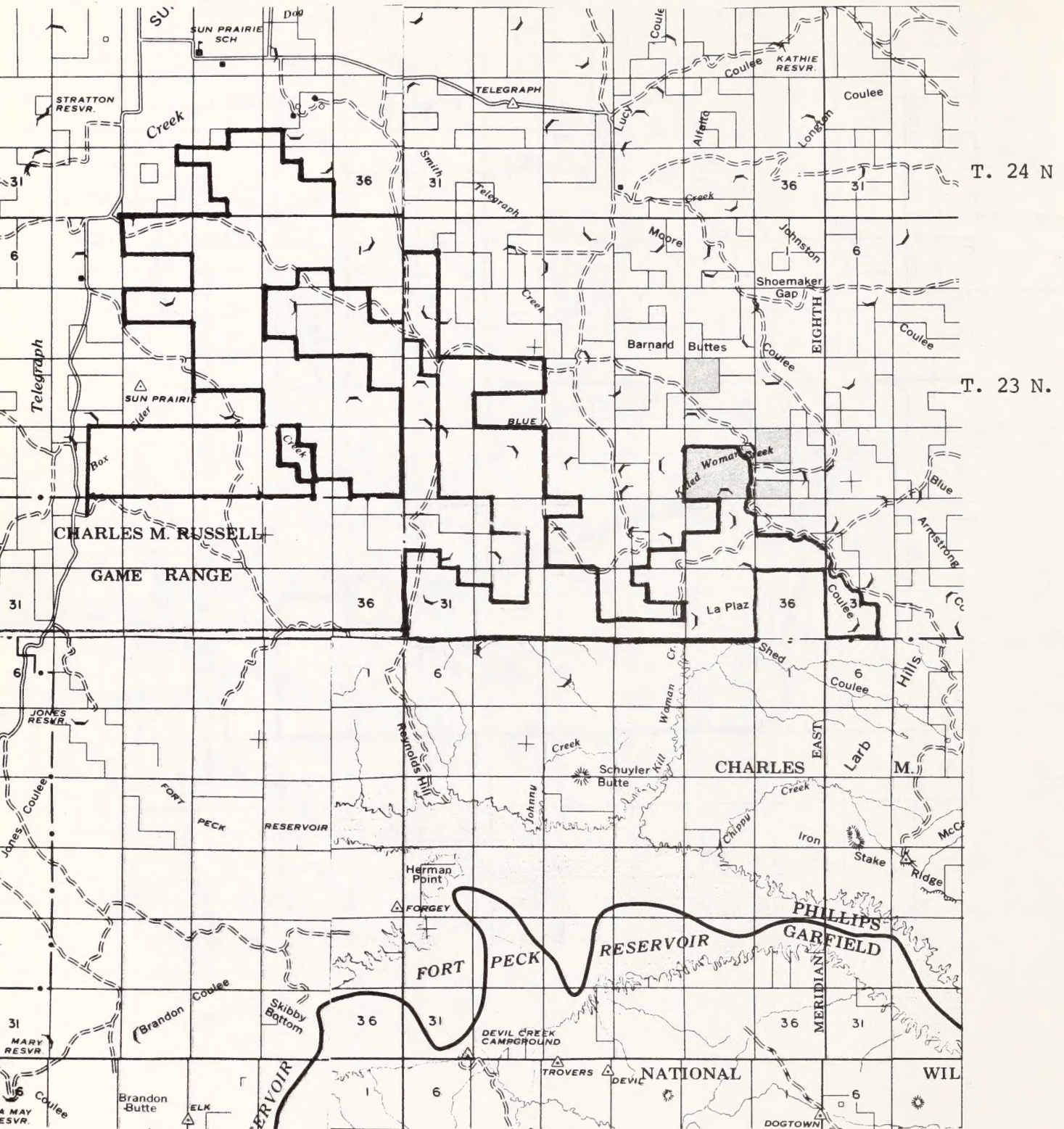


T. 22 N.

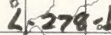
Box Elder Creek #277

R. 31 E.

R. 32 E.

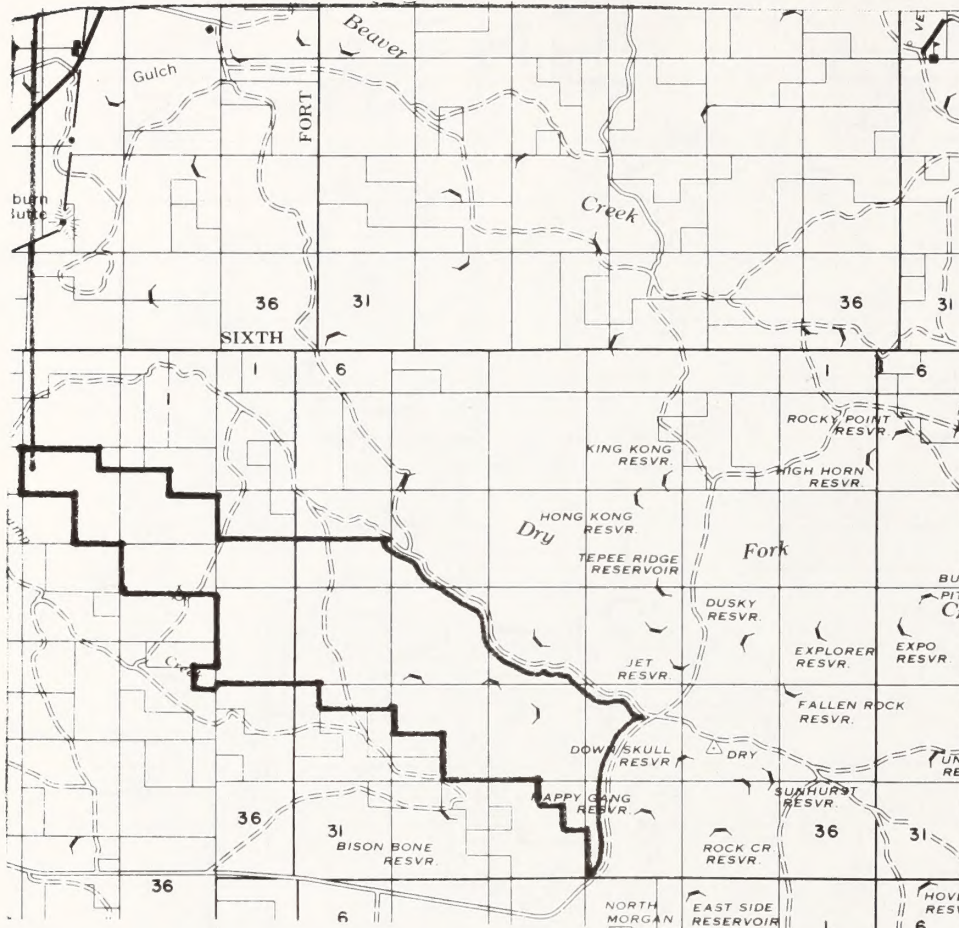


L-227-D



R. 26 E.

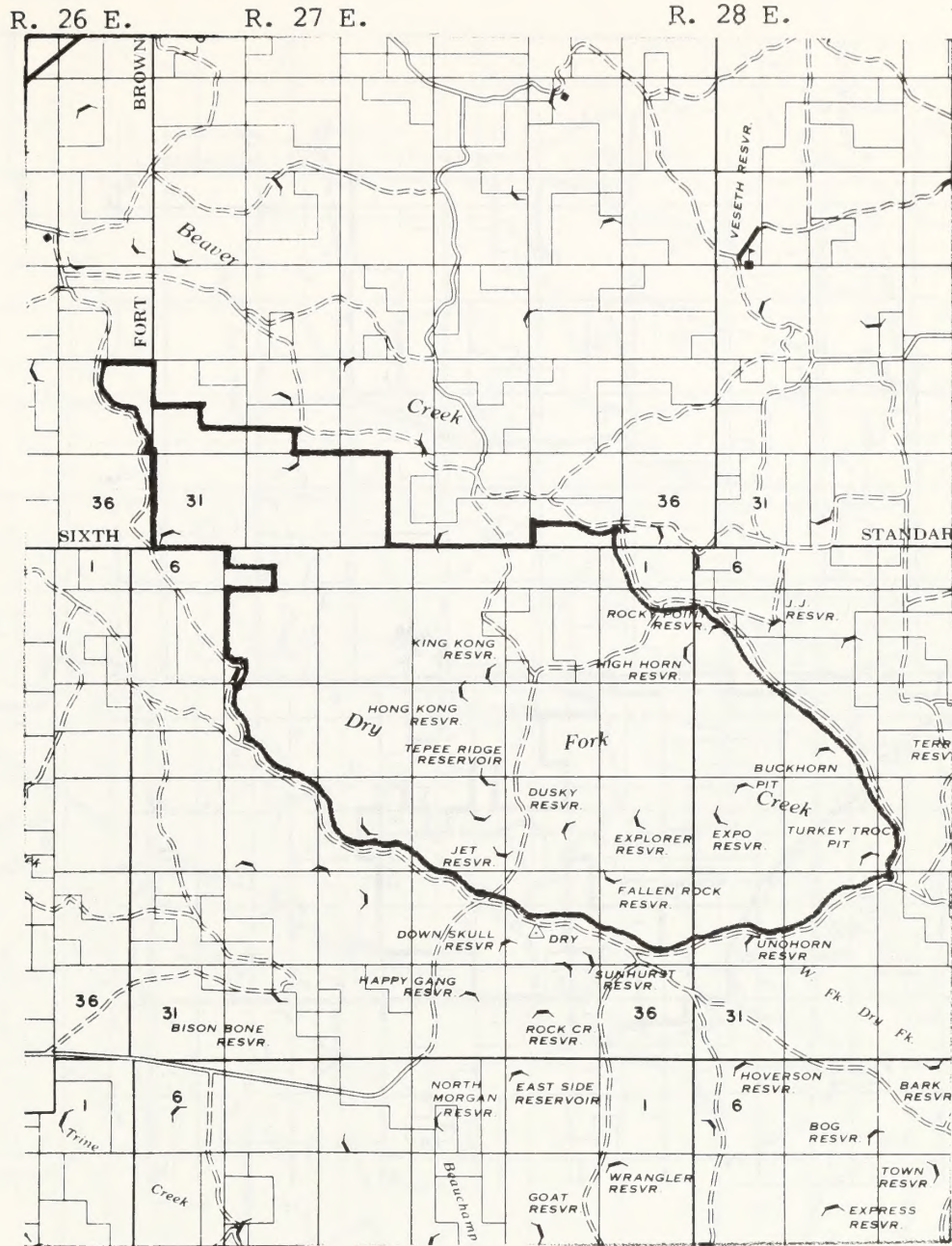
R. 27 E.



T. 24 N.

L-279-A

Dry Fork Creek #280



T. 25 N.

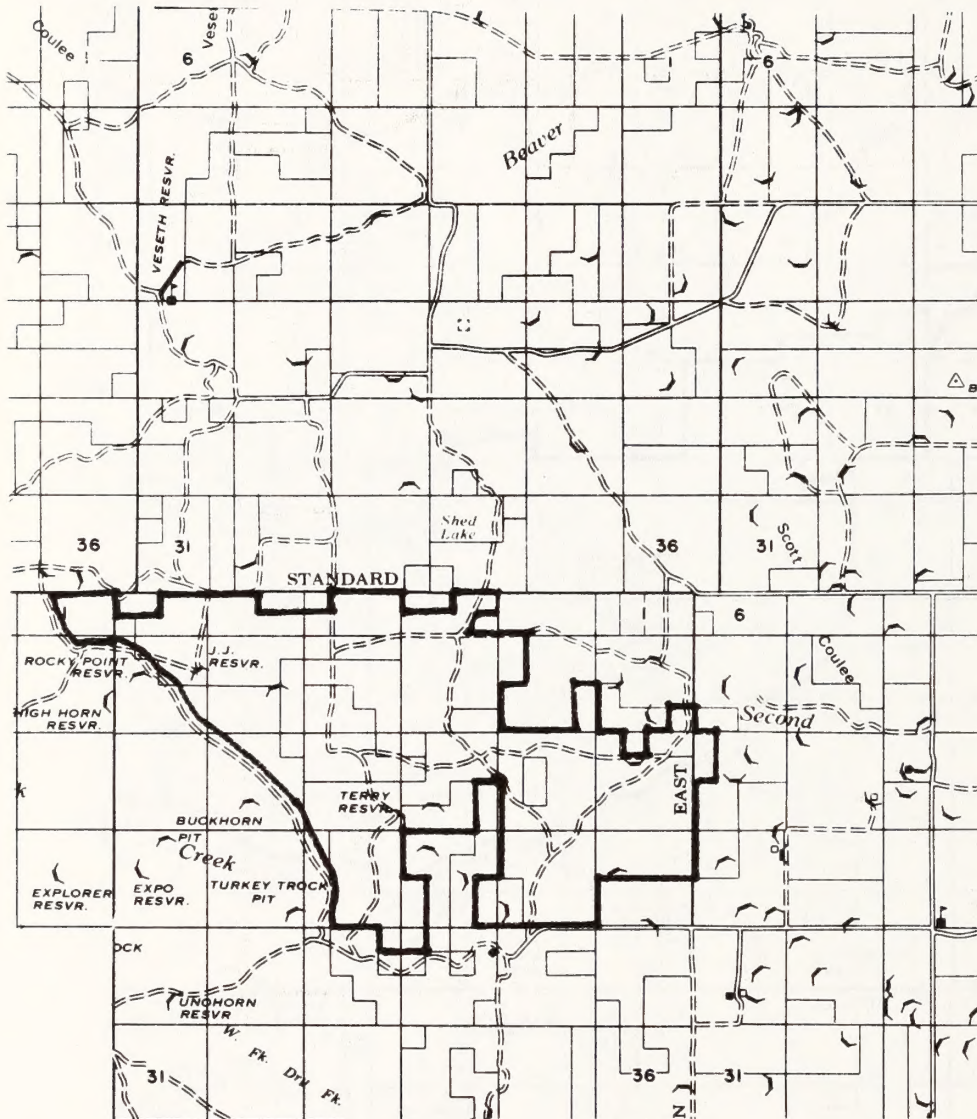
T. 24 N.

GAREY COULEE #281

R. 27 N.

R. 28 N.

R. 29 E.



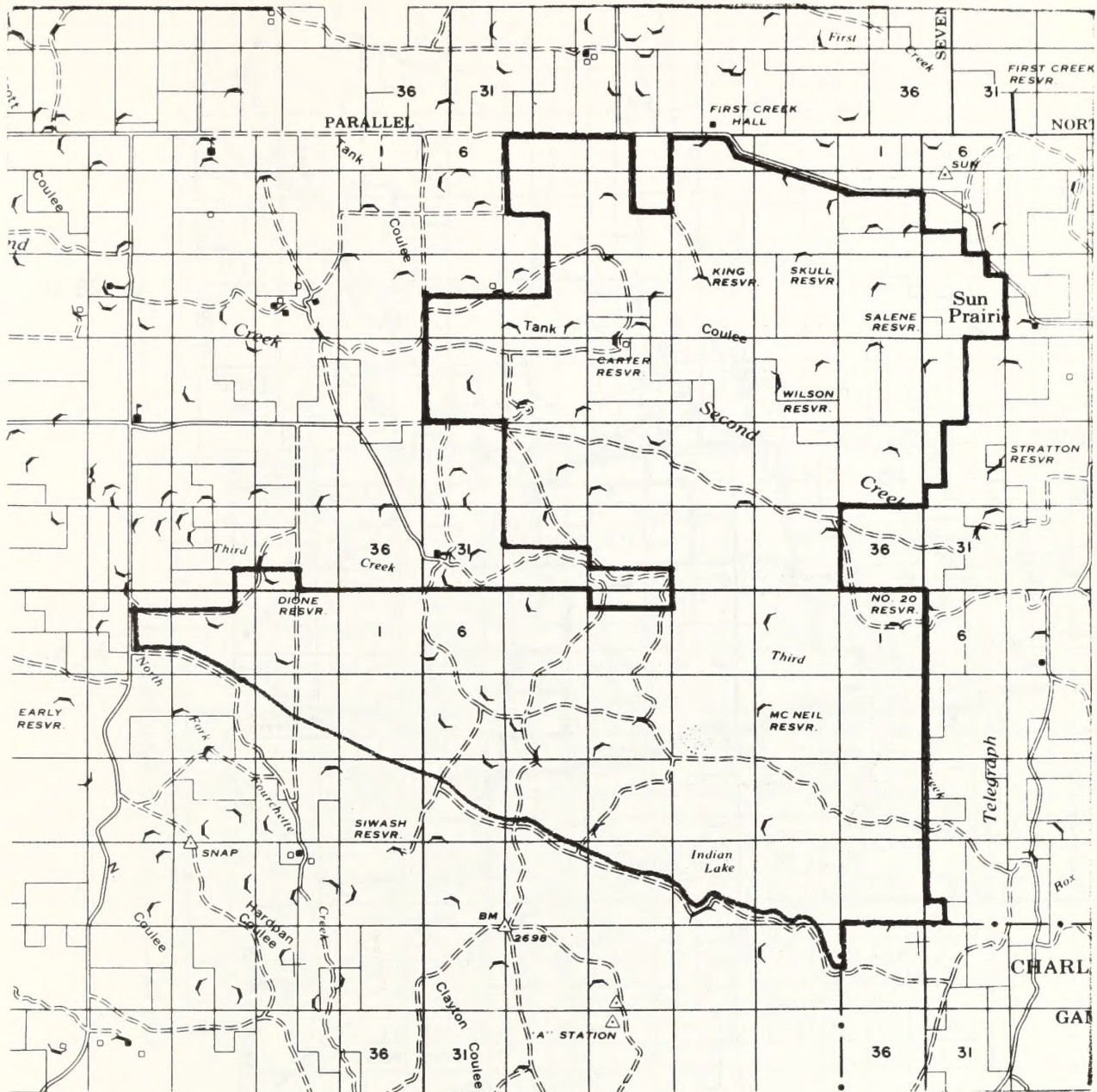
T. 24 N.

L-281-D

R. 29 E.

R. 30 E.

R. 31 E.

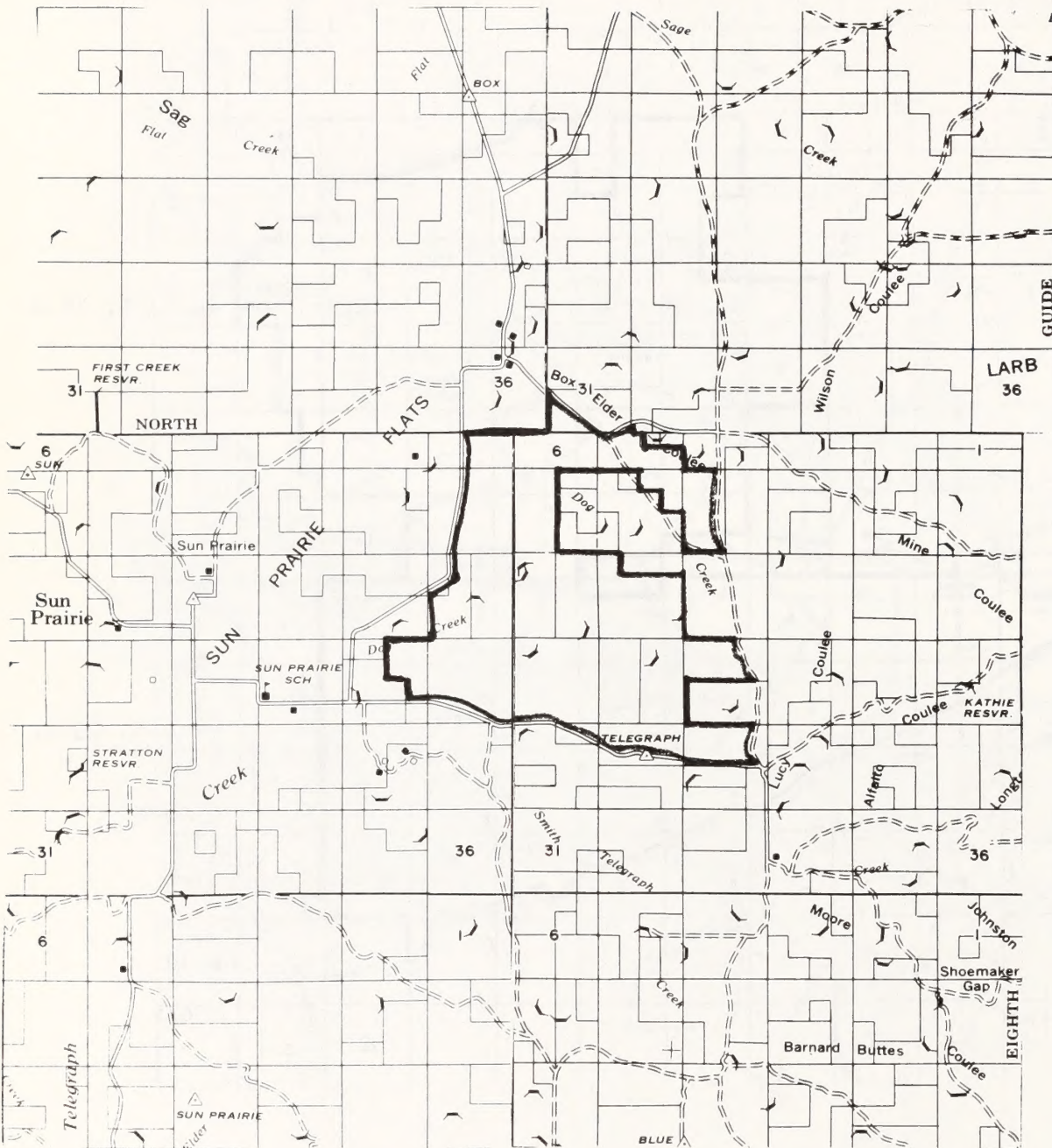


T. 24 N.

T. 23 N.

R. 31 E.

R. 32 E.



T. 25 N.

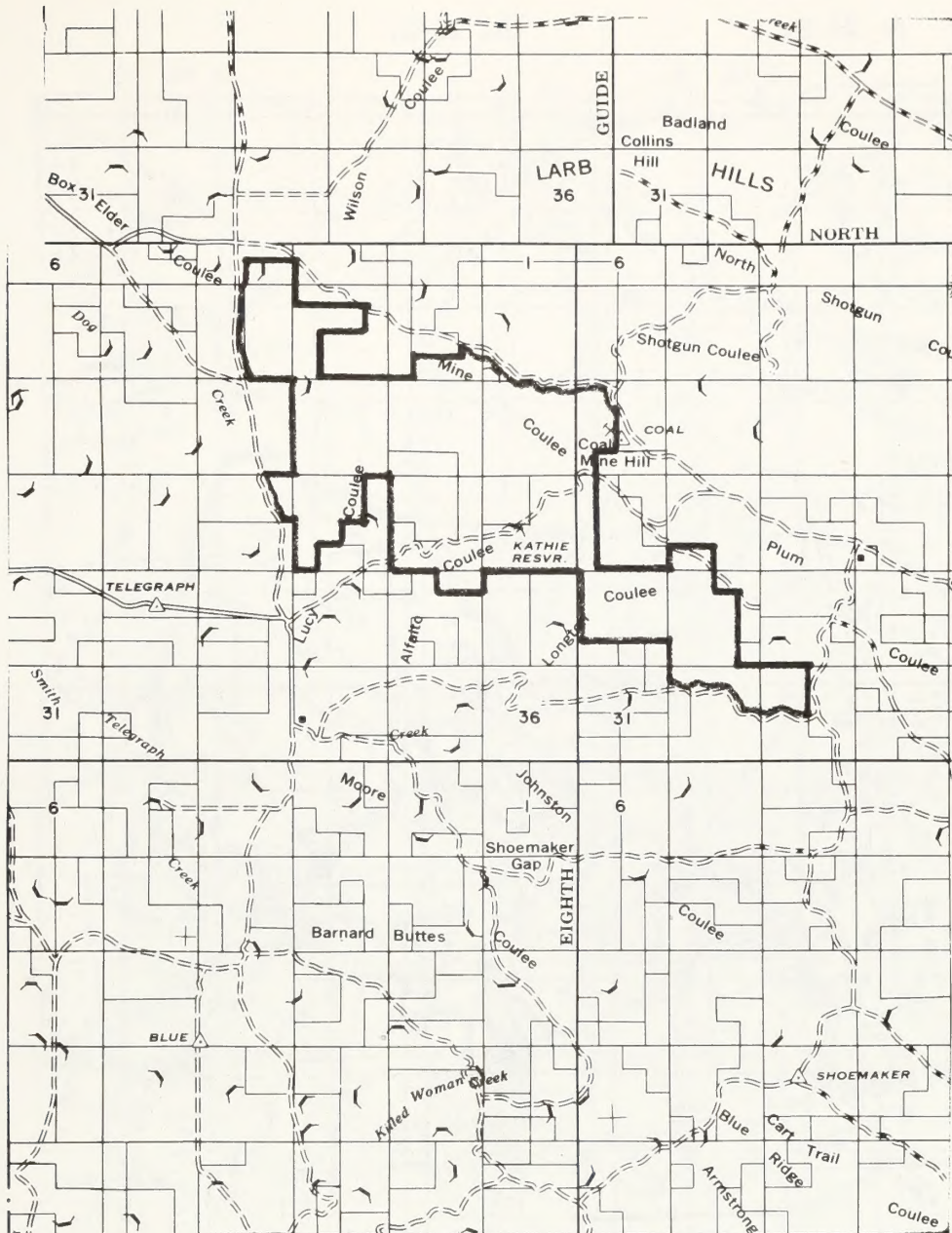
T. 24 N.

L-283-D

Coal Mine Coulee #284

R. 32 E.

R. 33 E.



T. 24 N.

L-284-D

Grouse Gulch #285

R. 24 E.

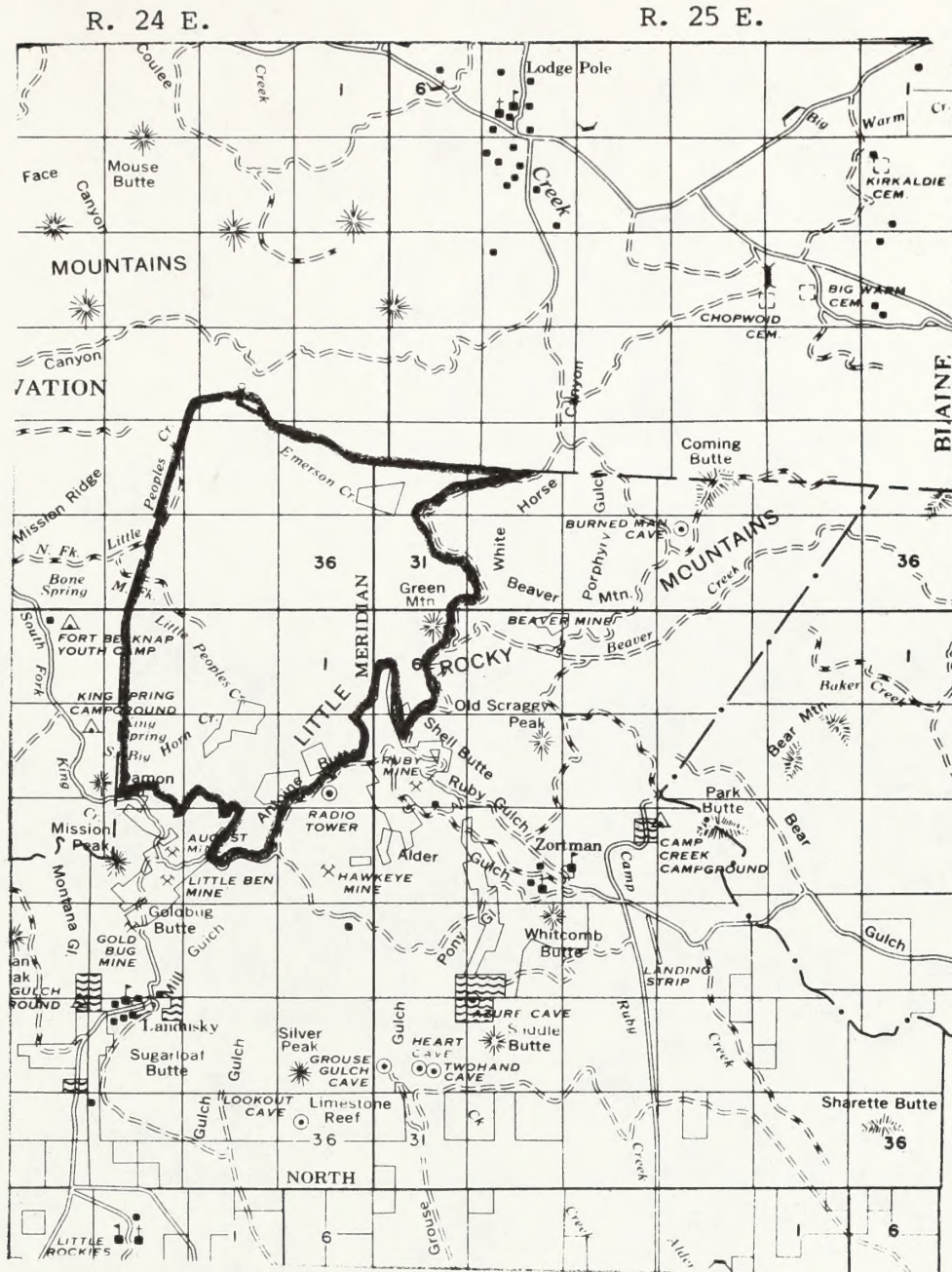
R. 25 E.



T. 25 N.

L-285-D

Little Rockies #286

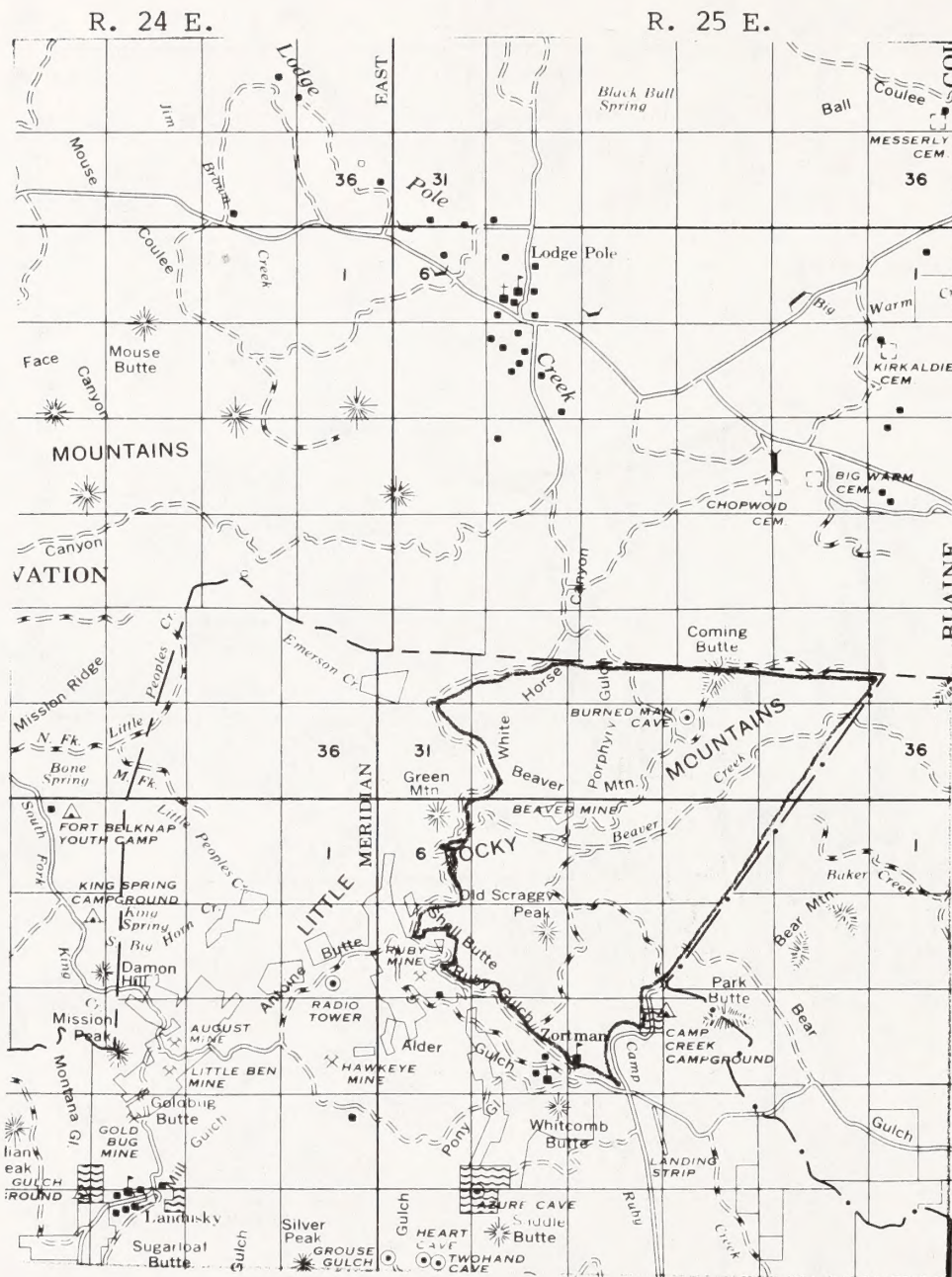


T. 26 N.

T. 25 N.

L-286-D

Camp Creek #287

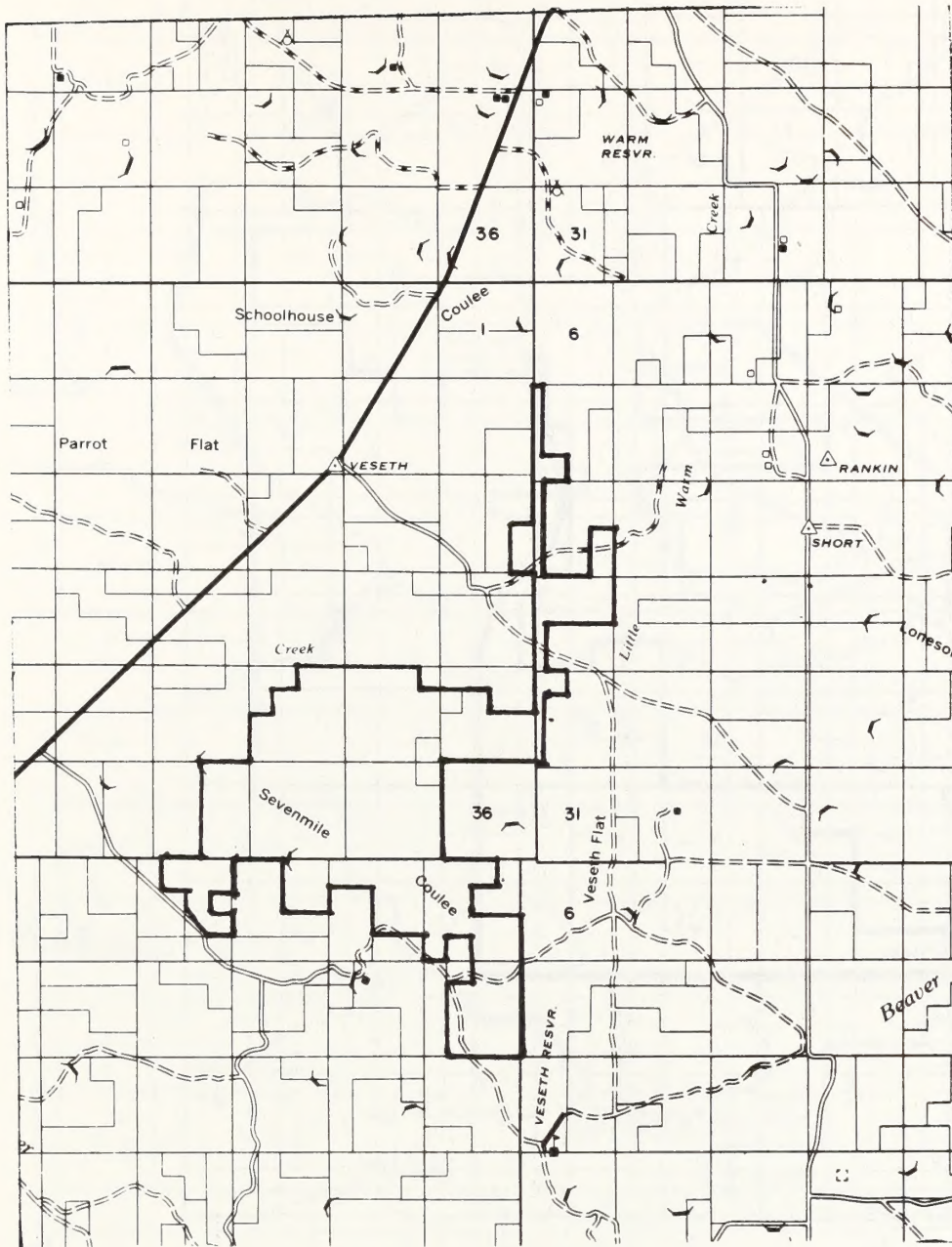


L-287-D

Little Warm Spring Creek #288

R. 27 E.

R. 28 E.



T. 26 N.

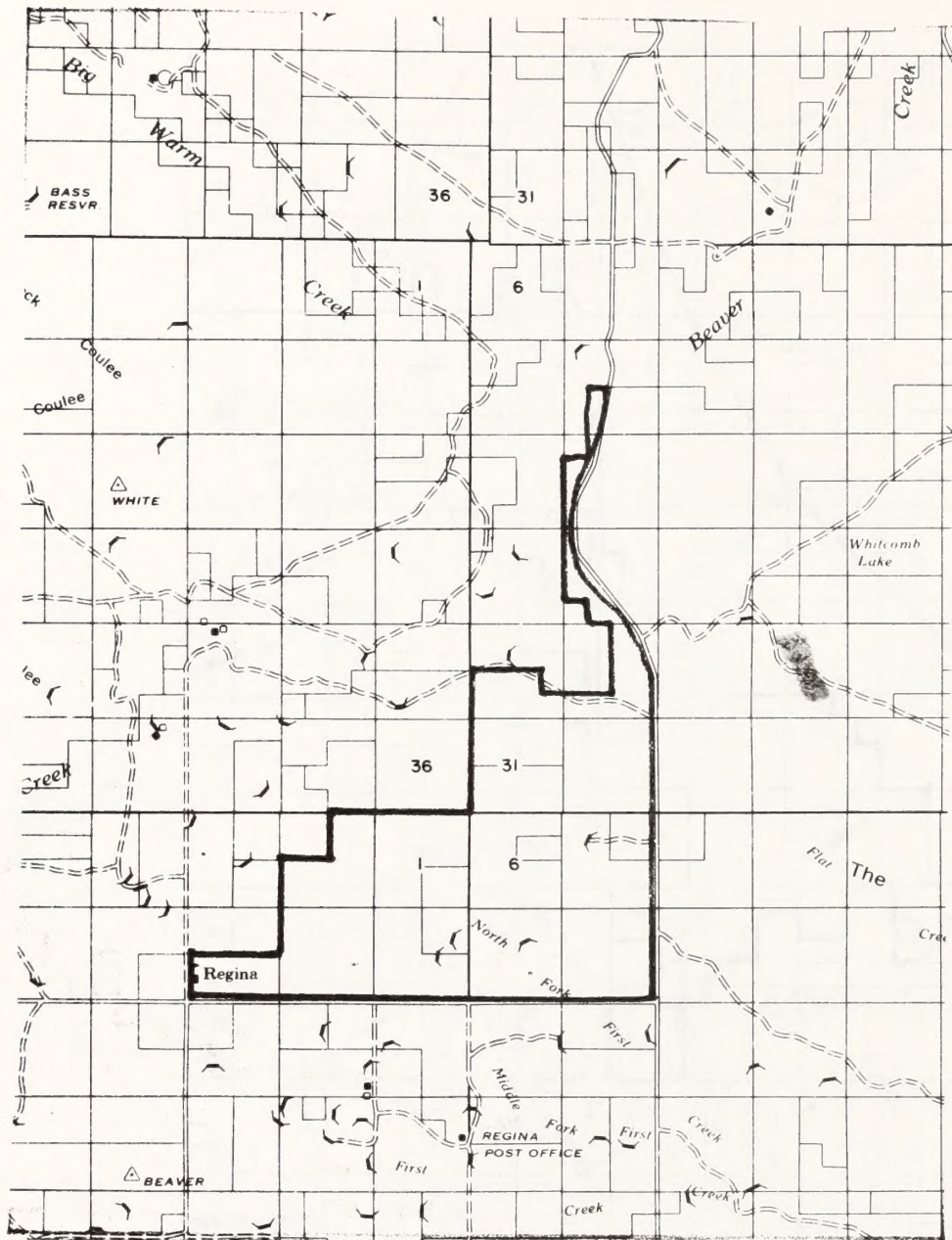
T. 25 N.

L-288-D

Northfork First Creek #289

R. 29 E.

R. 30 E.



T. 26 N.

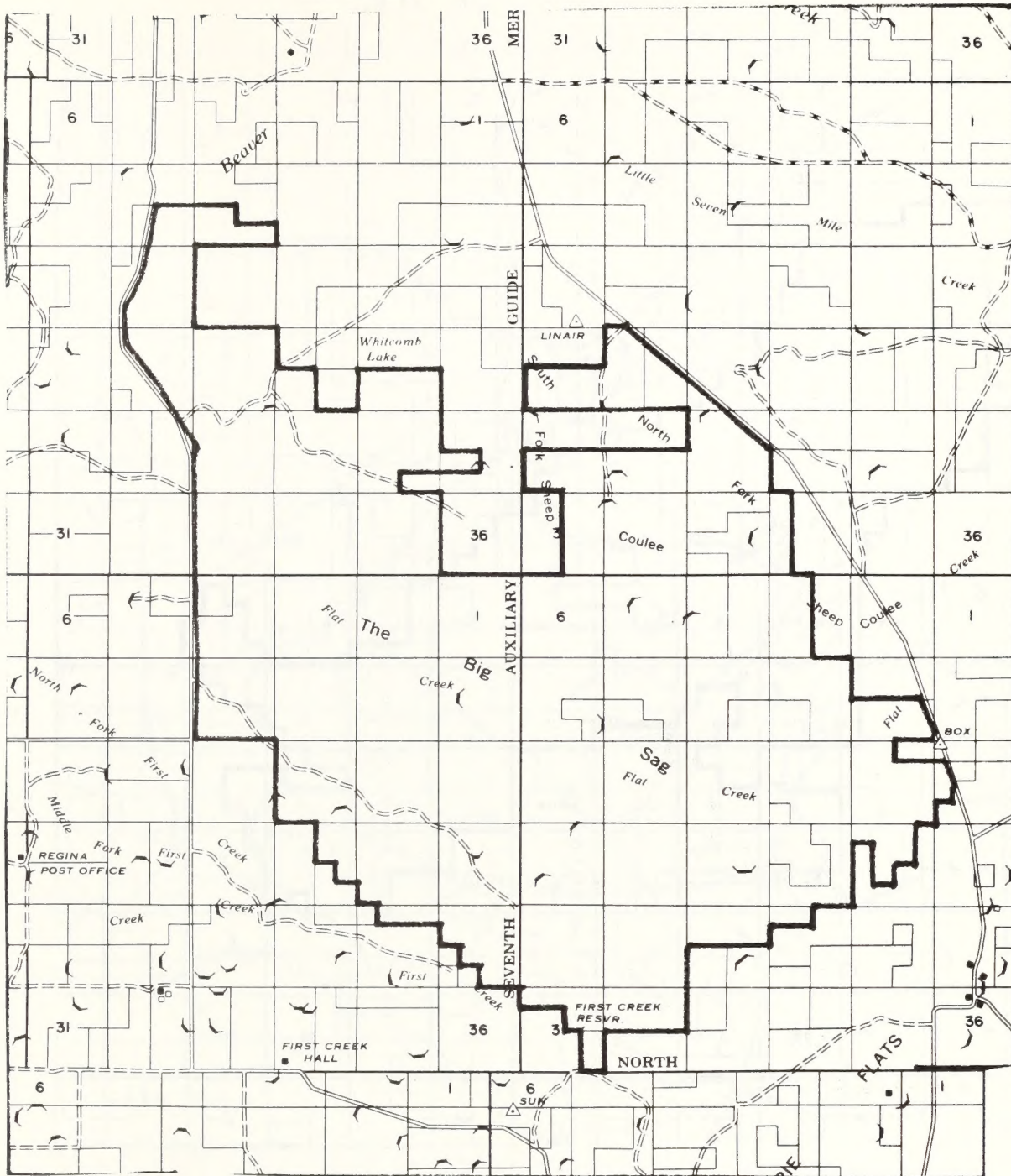
T. 25 N.

L-289-D

Flat Creek #290

R. 30 E.

R. 31 E.



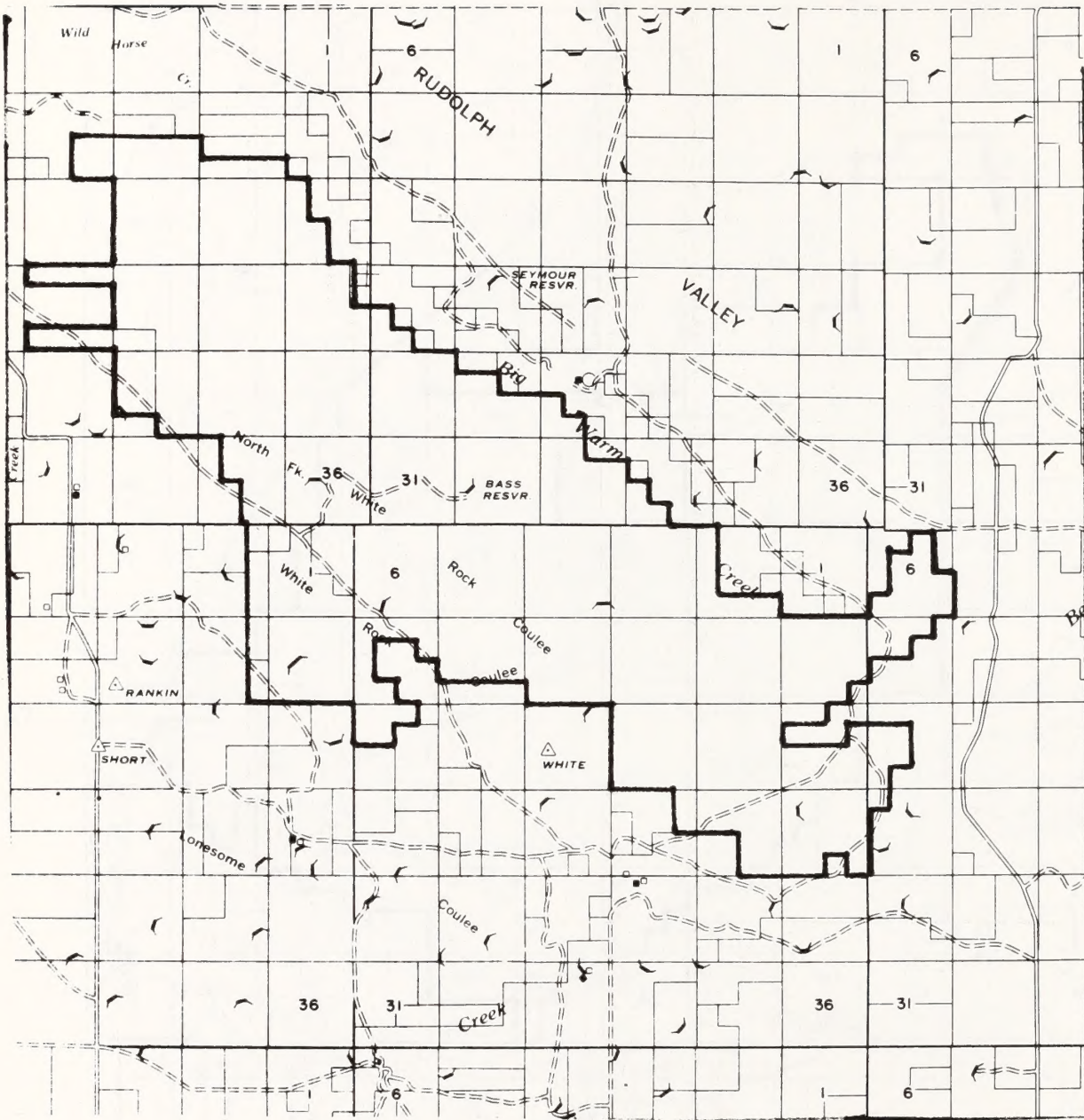
T. 26 N.

T. 25 N.

Whiterock Coulee #291

R. 28 E.

R. 29 E.



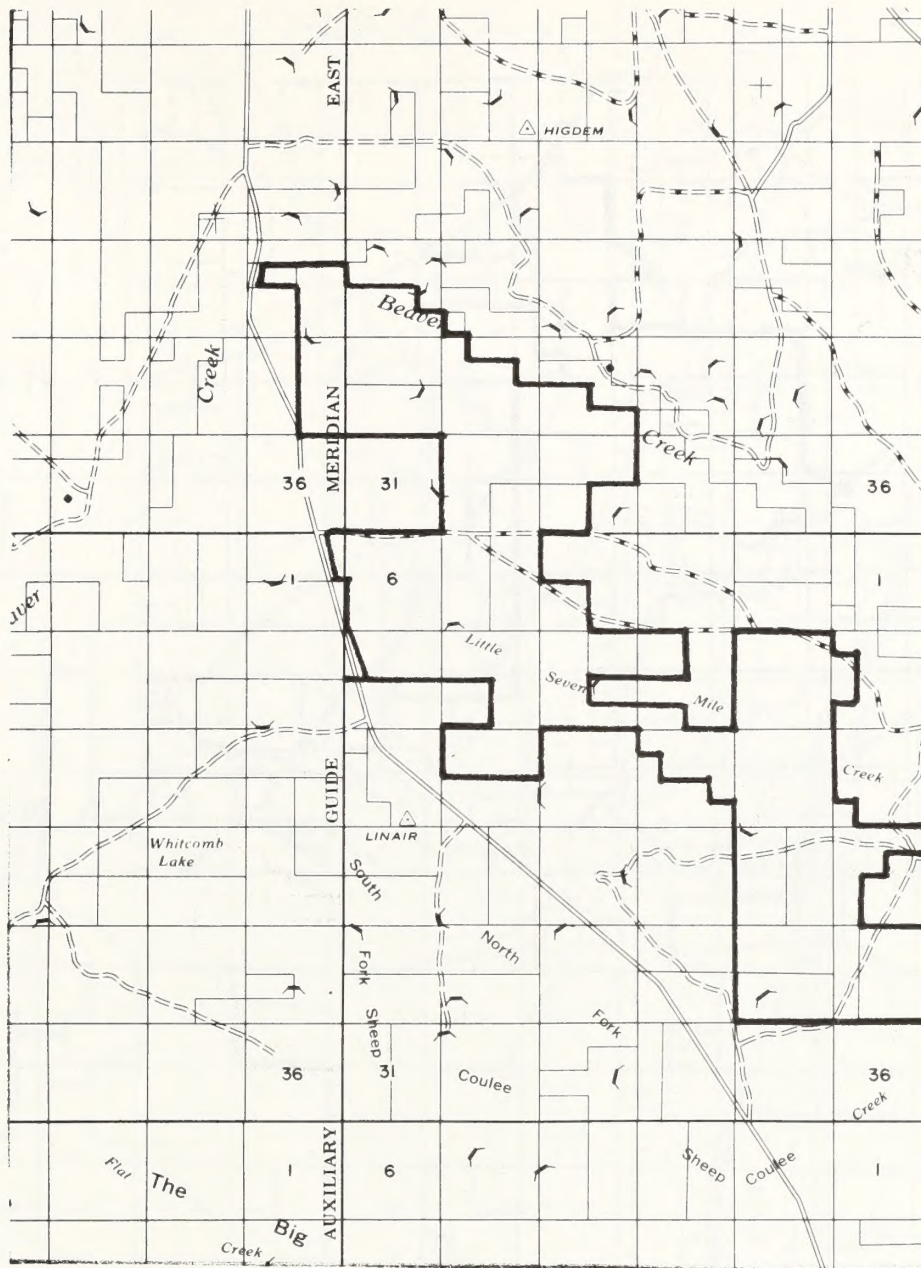
T. 27 N.

T. 26 N.

Little Seven-Mile Creek #292

R. 30 E.

R. 31 E.



T. 27 N.

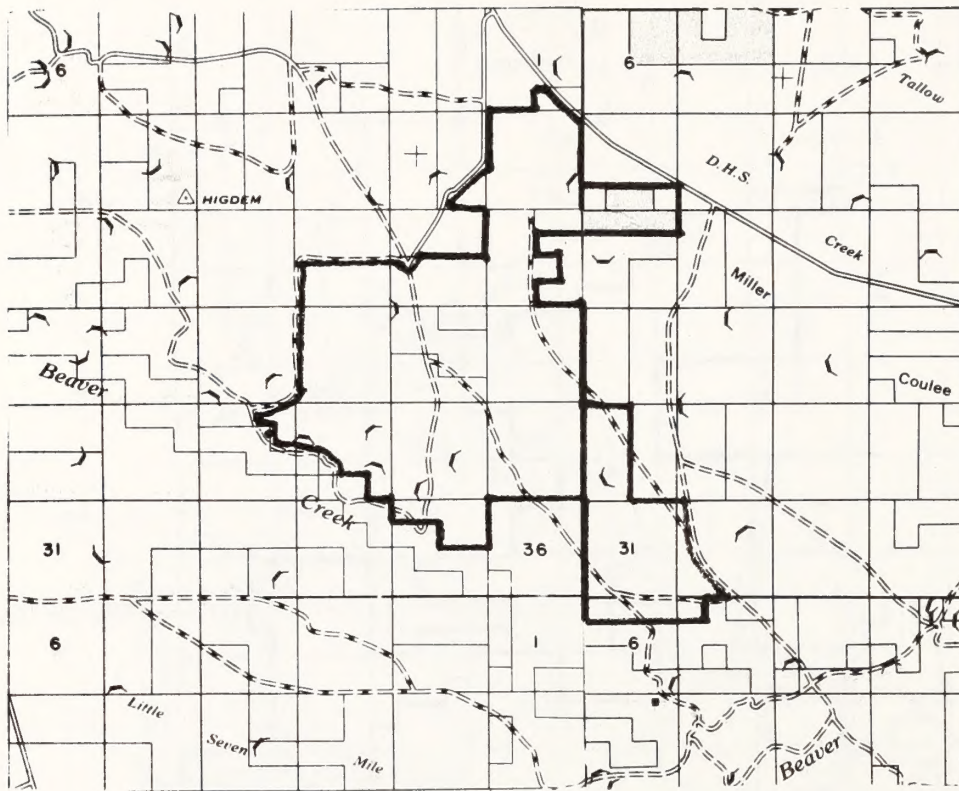
T. 26 N.

L-292-D

Horse Pasture Coulee #293

R. 31 E.

R. 32 E.

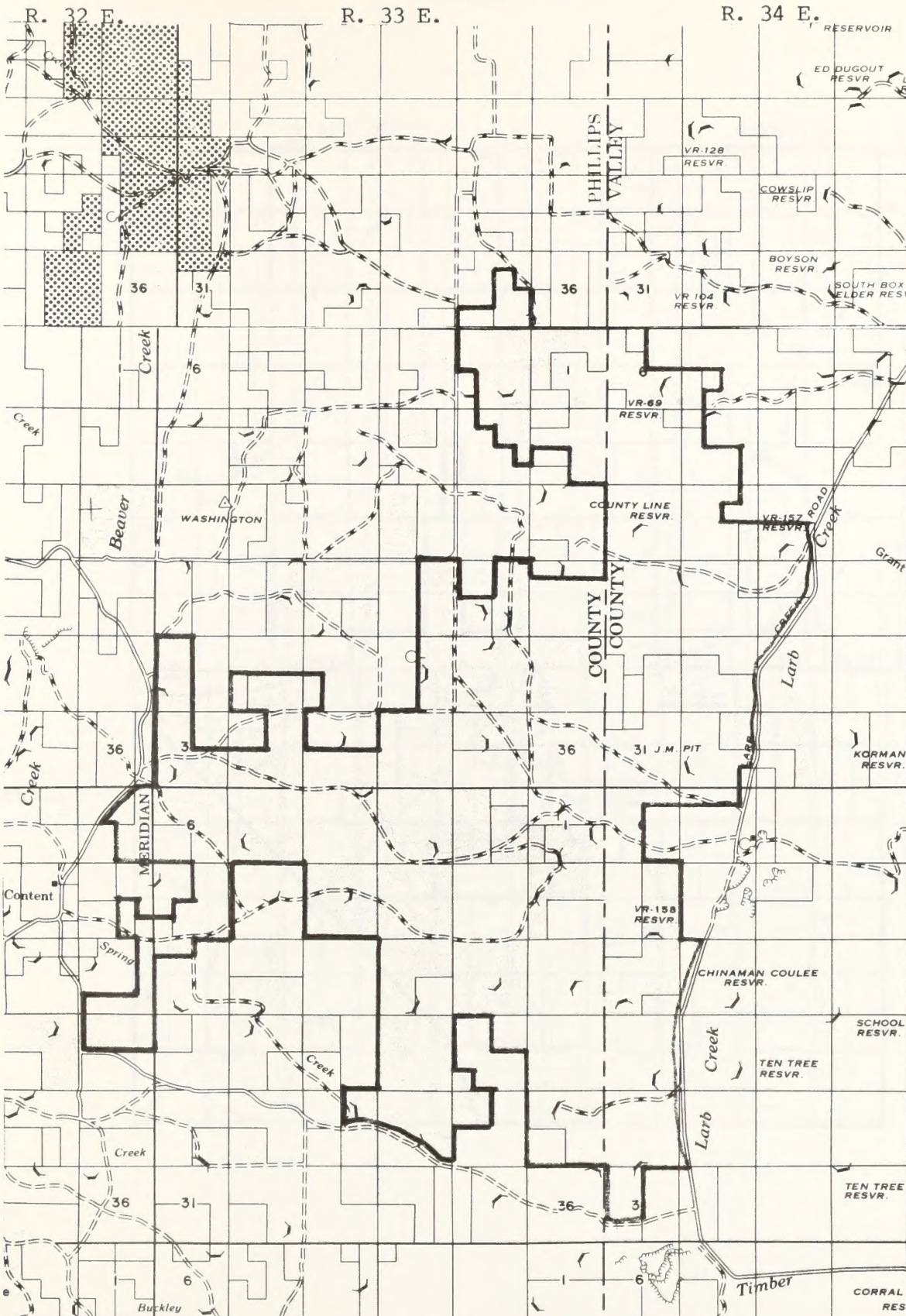


T. 27 N.

T. 26 N.

L-293-D

Trueblood Coulee #294



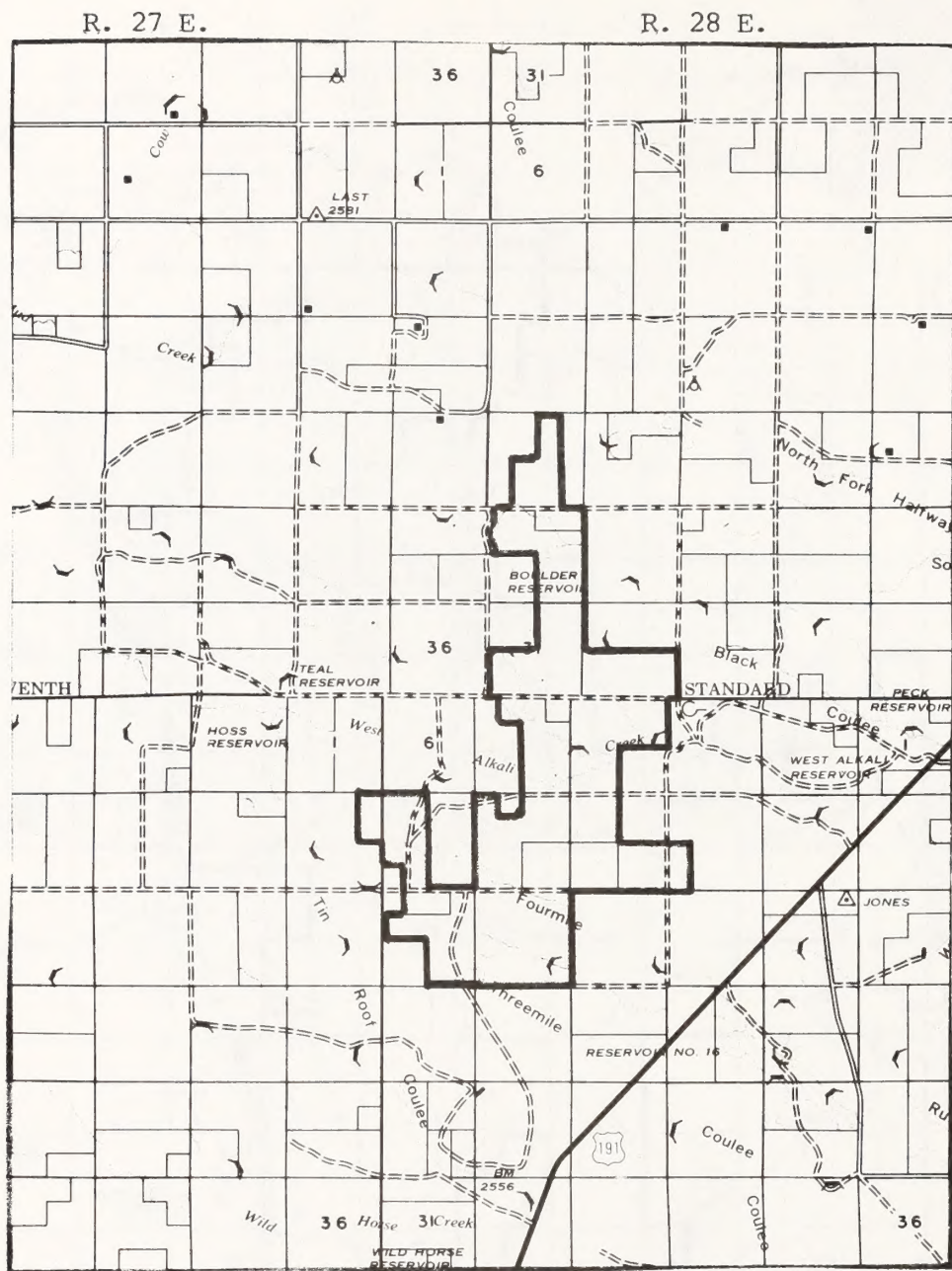
T. 28 N.

T. 27 N.

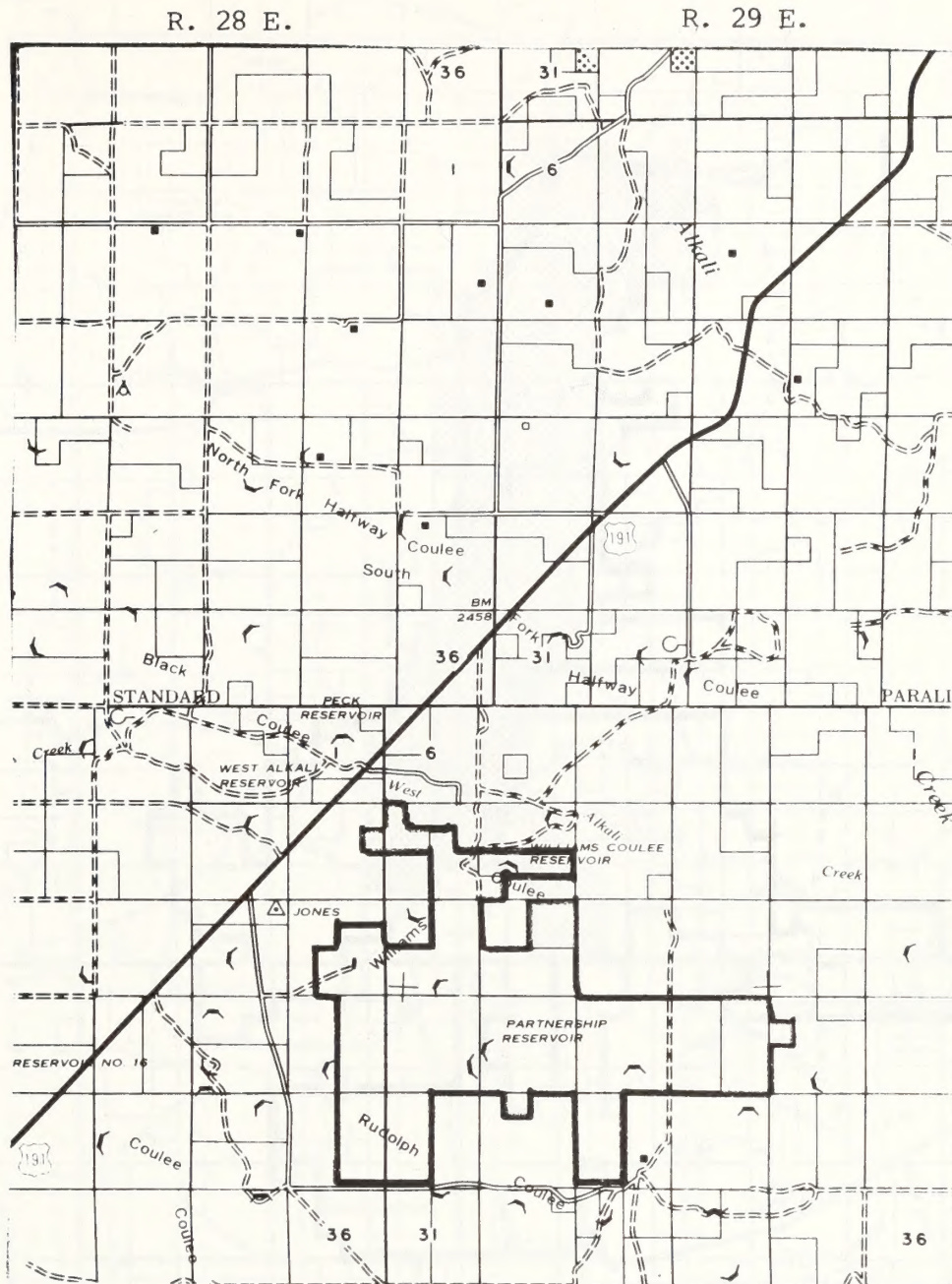
T. 26 N.

L-294-D

West Alkali Creek #295



L-295-D



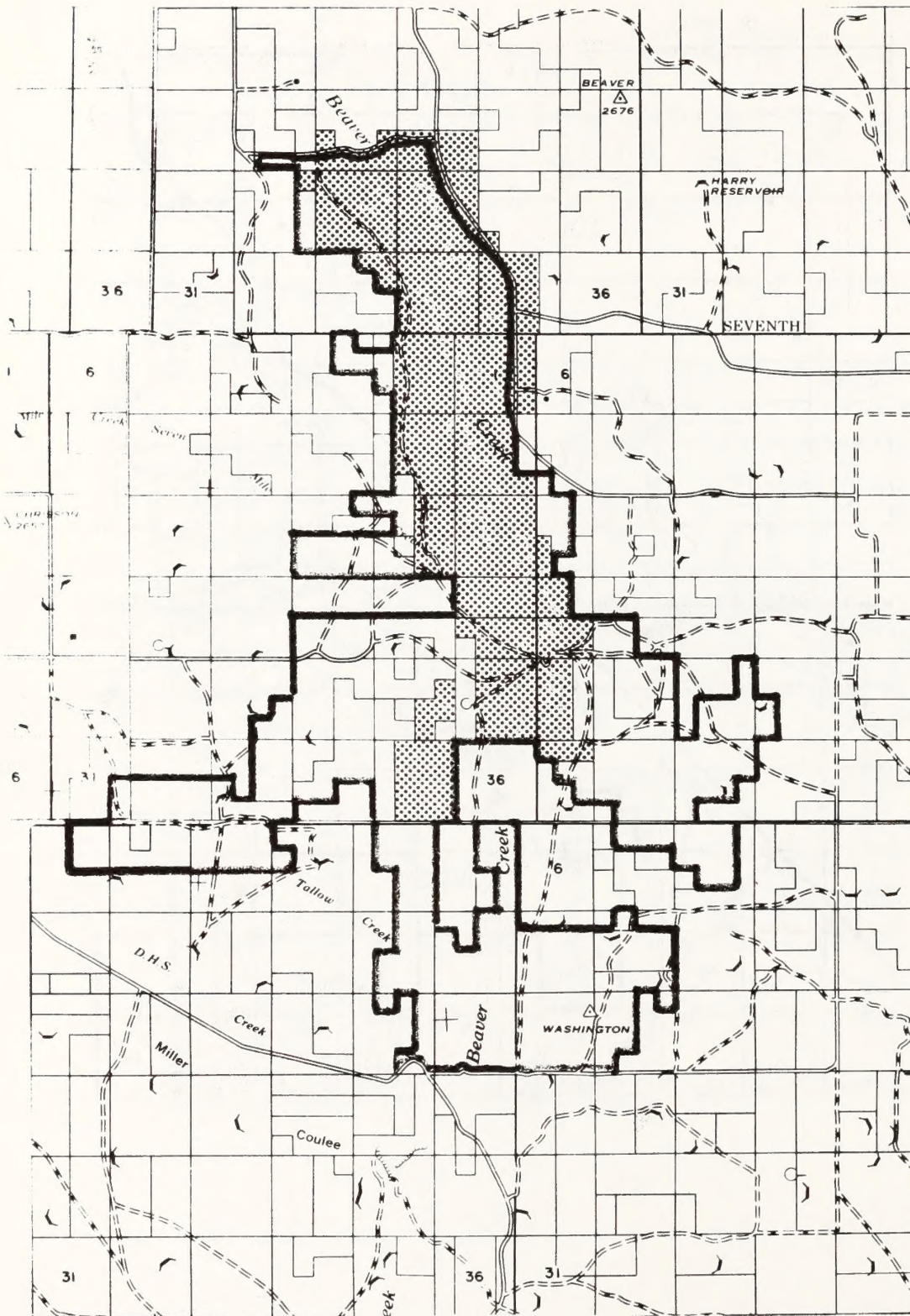
L-296-D

BEAVER CREEK #297

R. 31 E.

R. 32 E.

R. 33 E.

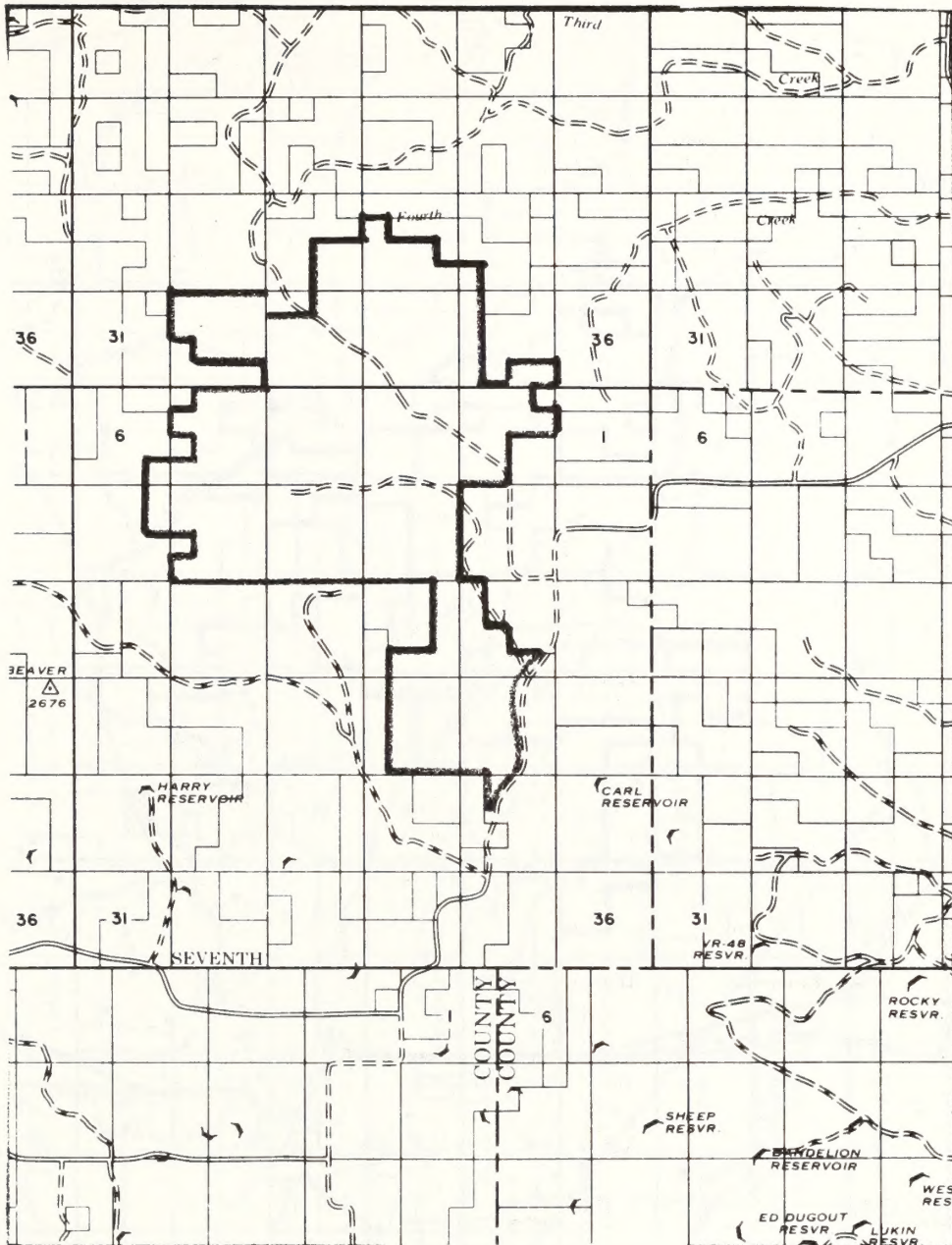


T. 29 N.

T. 28 N.

T. 27 N.

R. 33 E.



T. 30 N.

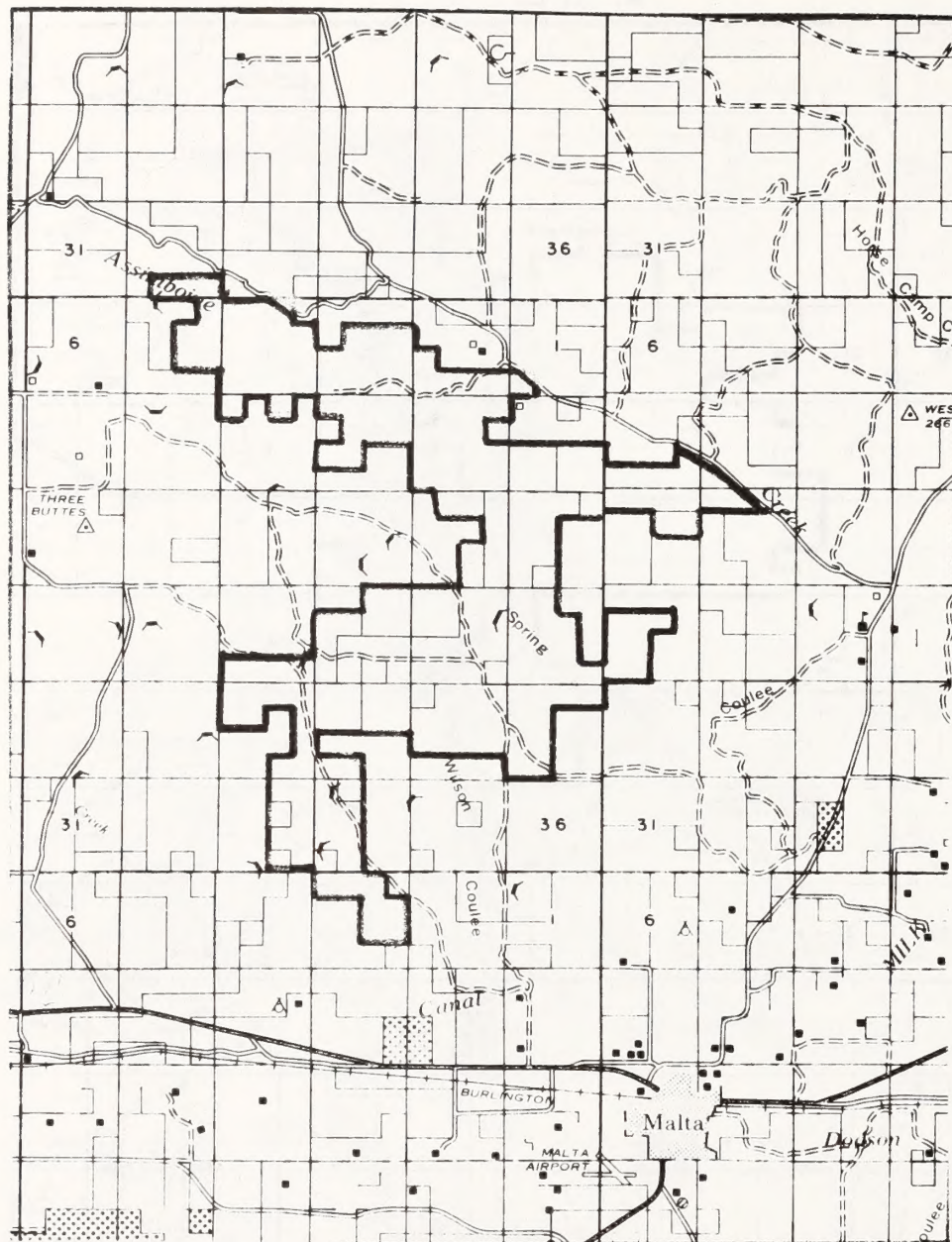
T. 29 N.

L-298-D

Assiniboine Creek #299

R. 29 E.

R. 30 E.



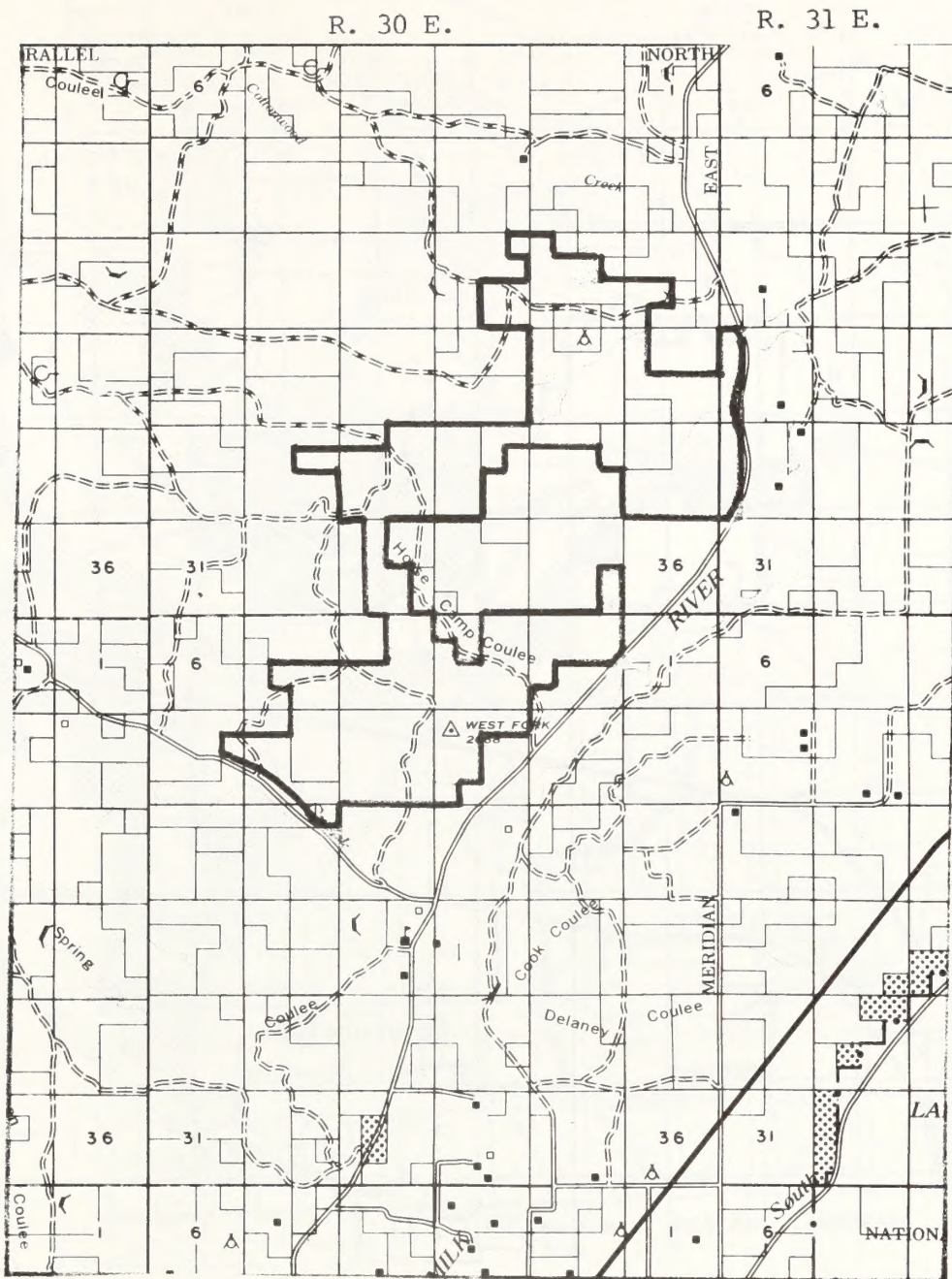
T. 32 N.

T. 31 N.

T. 30 N.

L-299-D

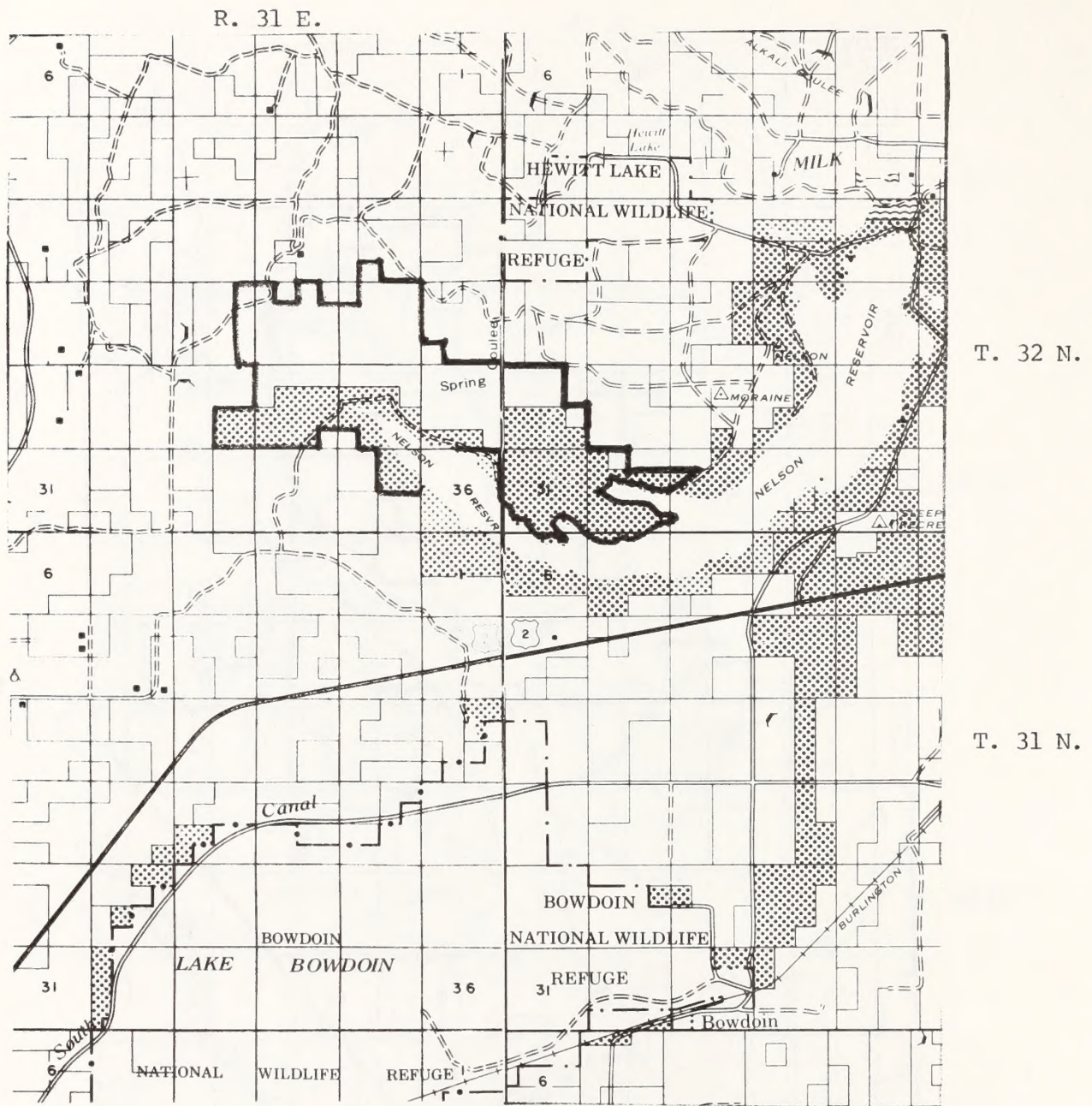
Horse Camp Coulee #300



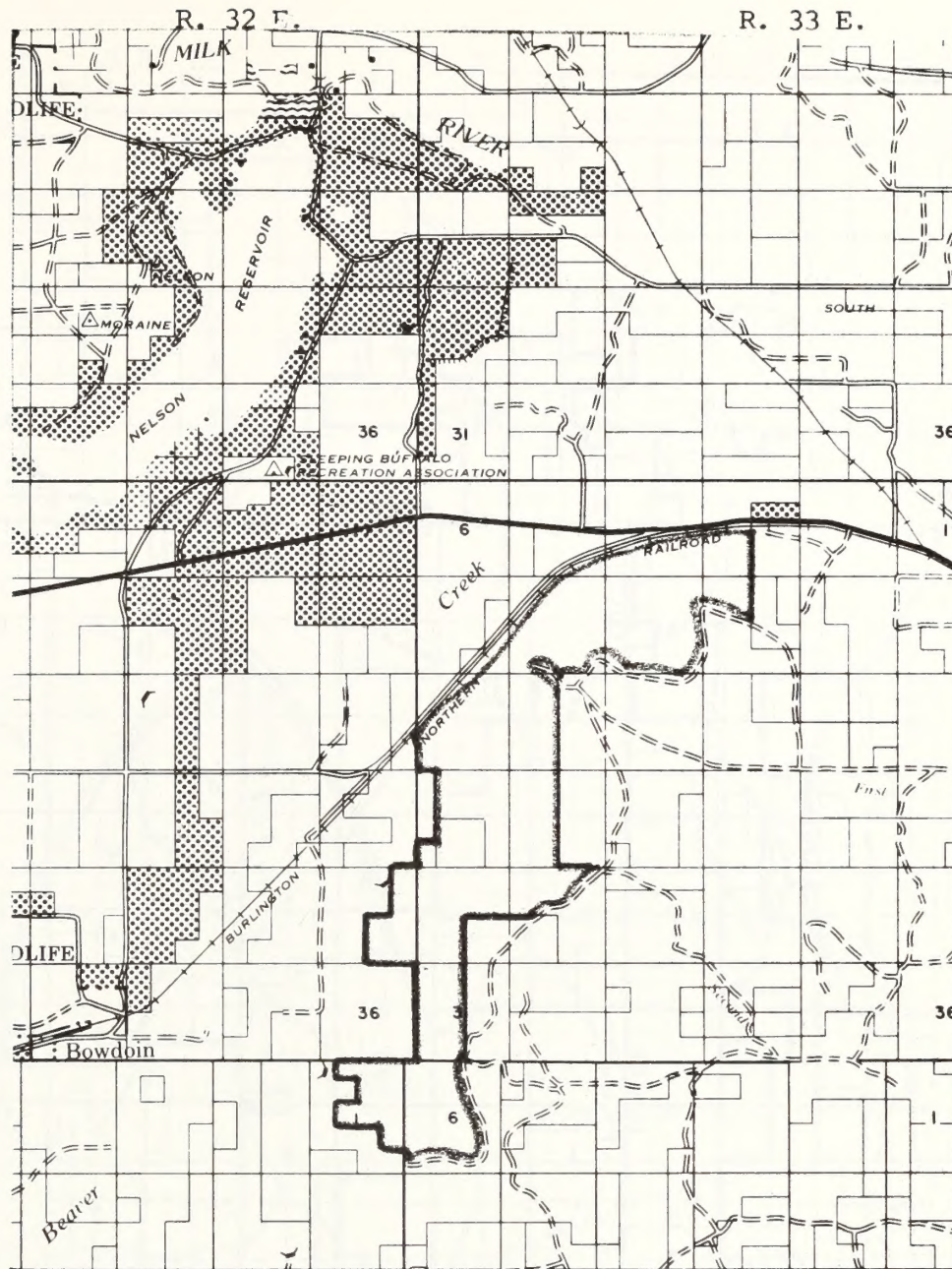
T. 32 N.

T. 31 N.

L-300-D



L-301-D



T. 31 N.

T. 30 N.

L-302-D

T. 34 N.

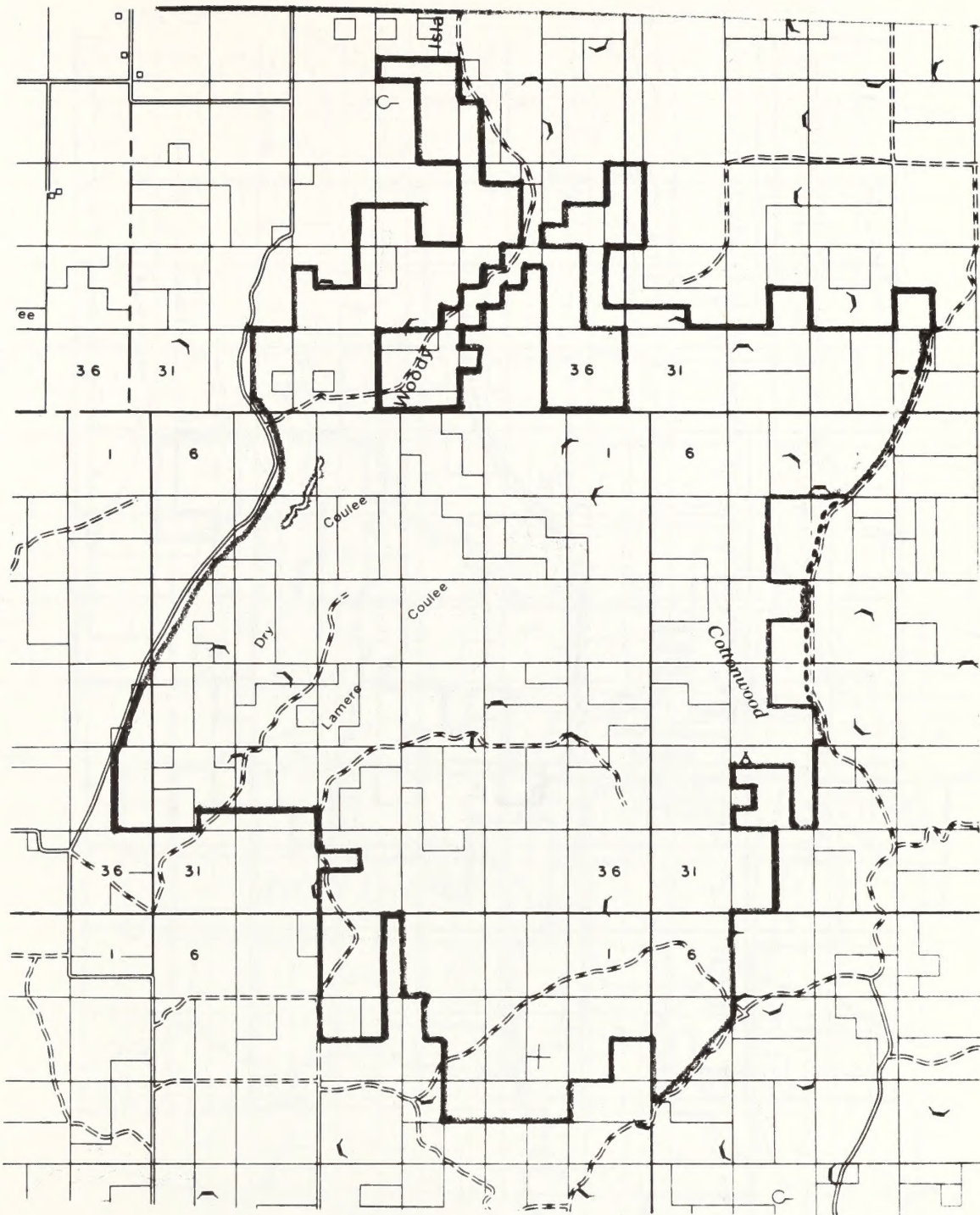
372

Lamere Coulee #304

R. 26 E.

R. 27 E.

R. 28 E.

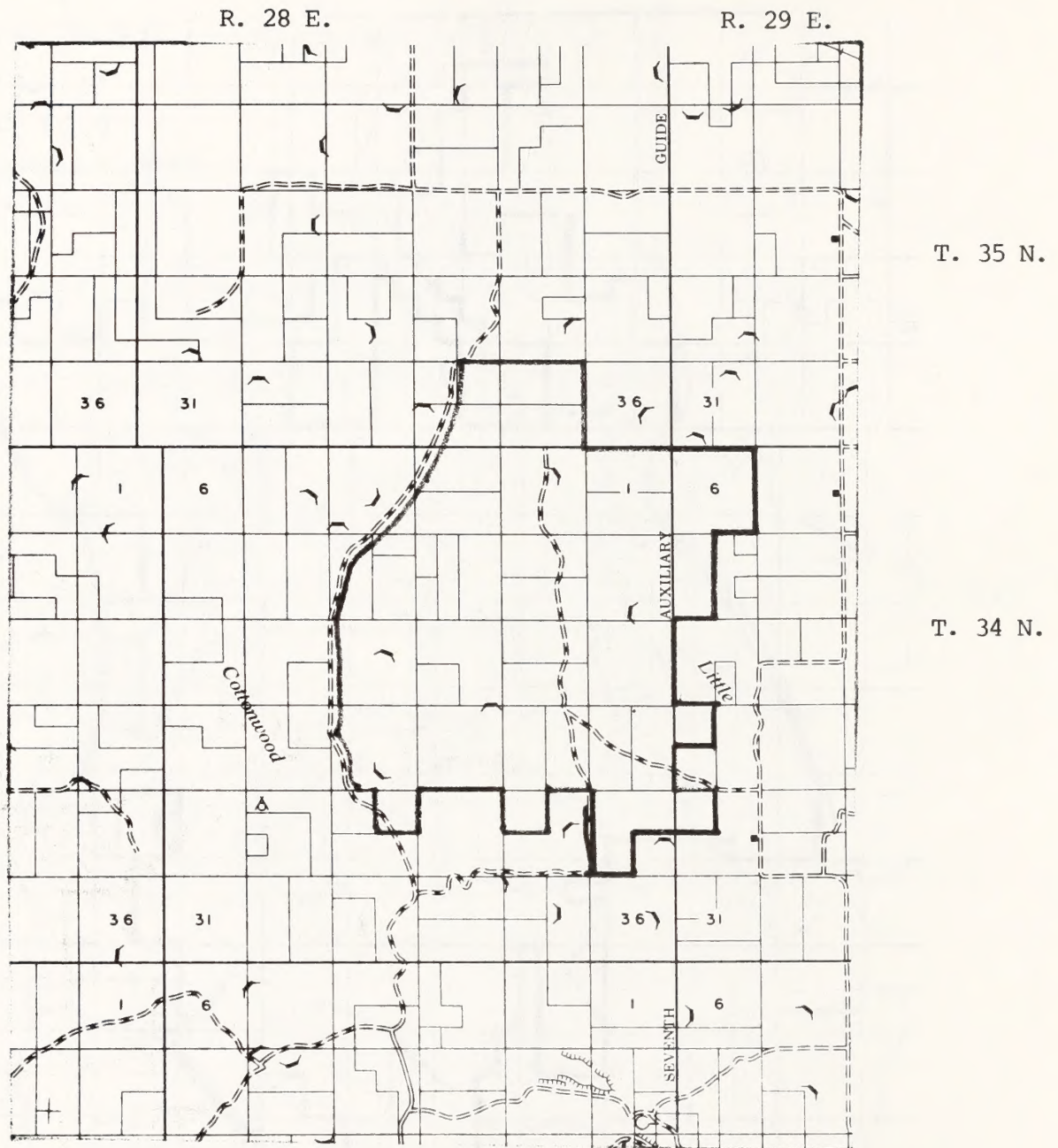


T. 35 N.

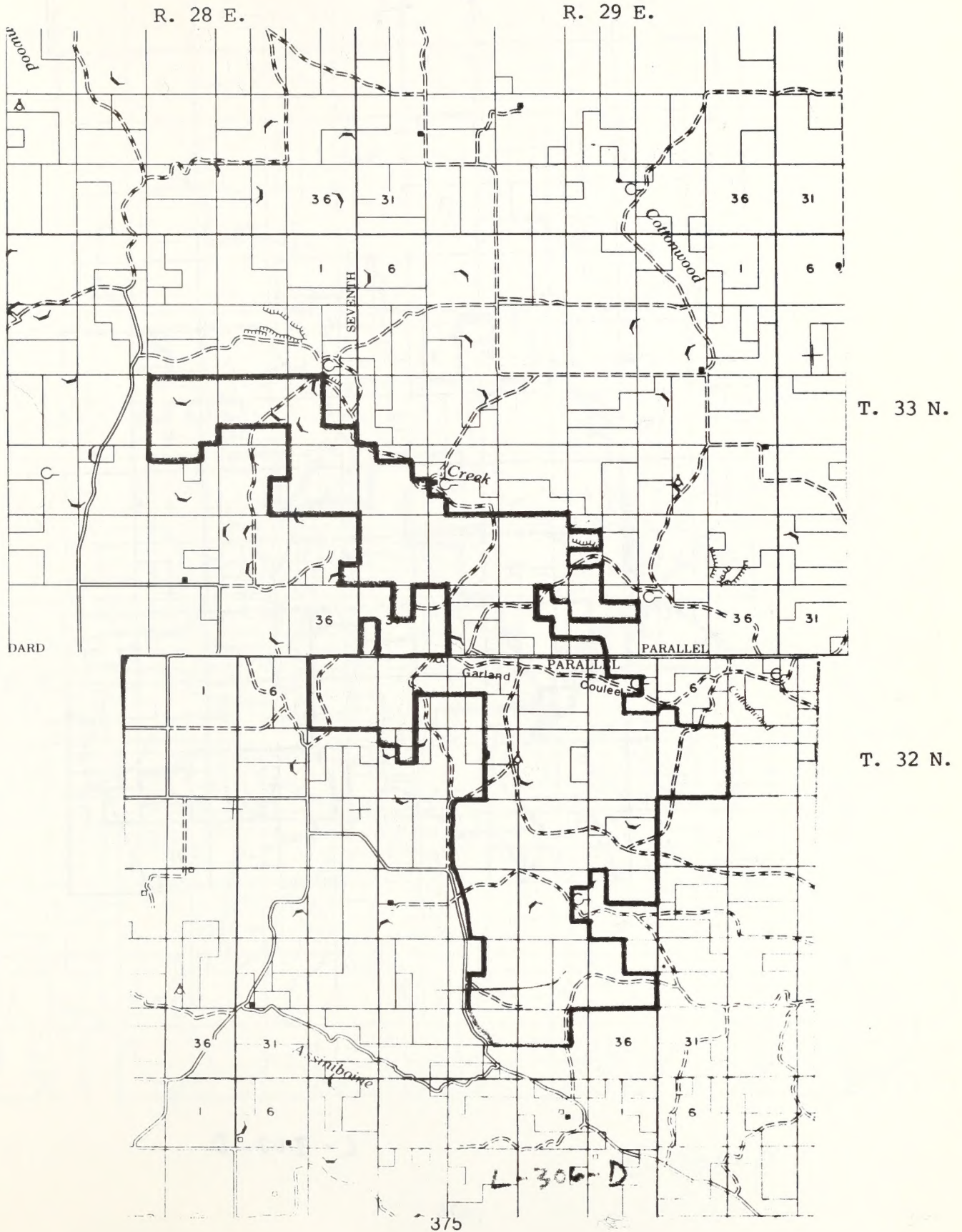
T. 34 N.

T. 33 N.

L-304-D

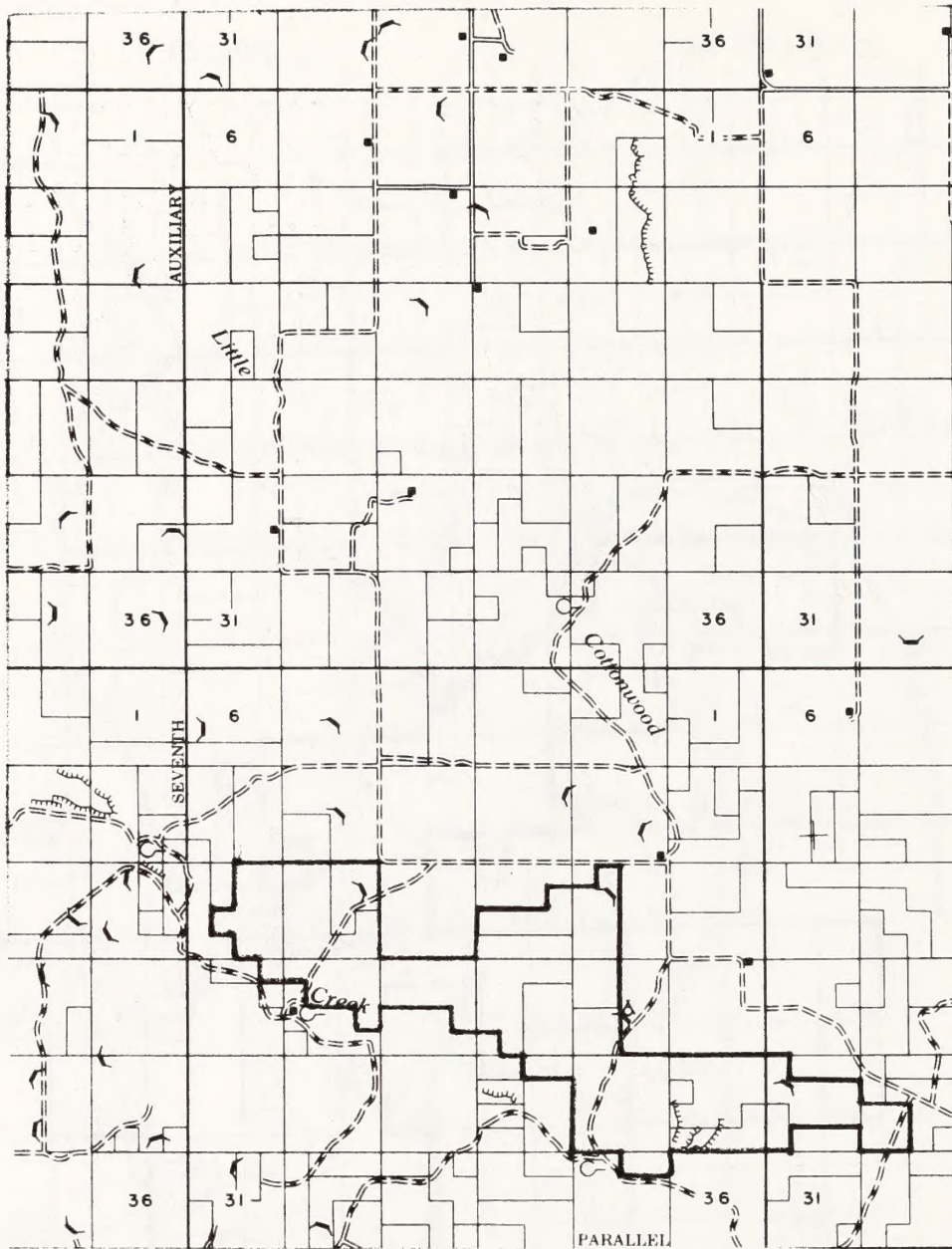


Garland Creek #306



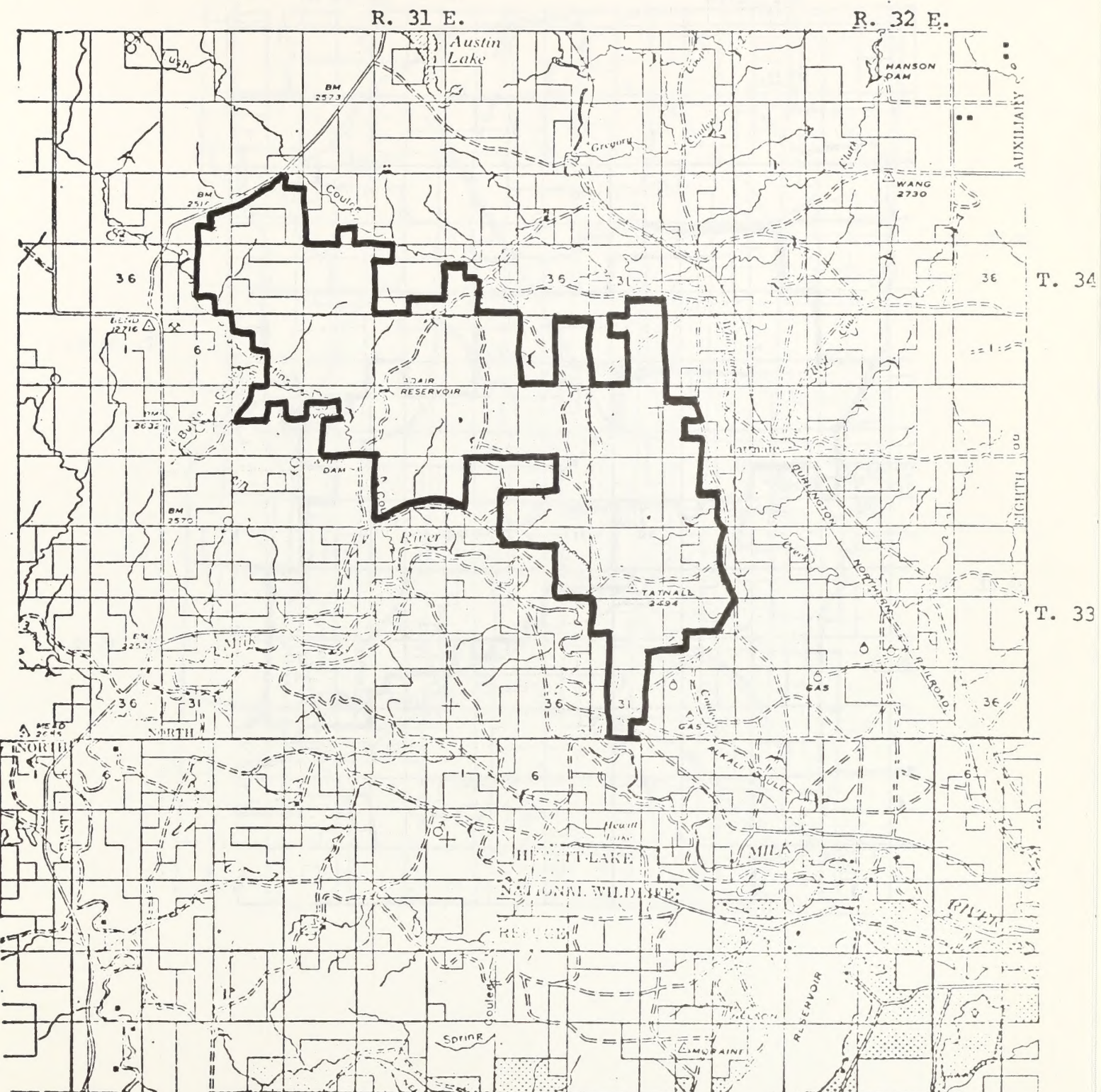
R. 29 E.

R. 30 E.



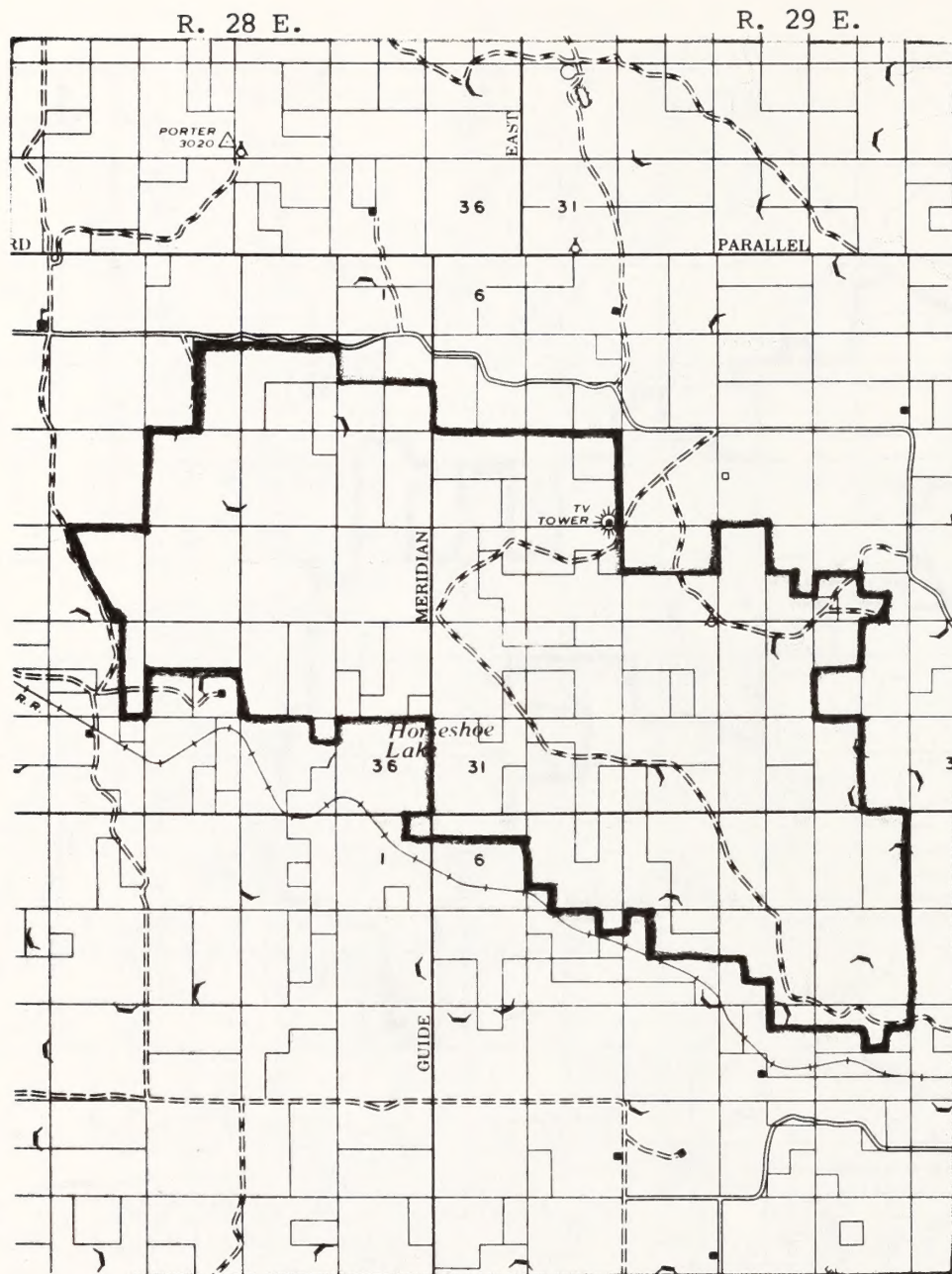
T. 33 N.

L-307-D



L-308-D

Horseshoe Lake #309

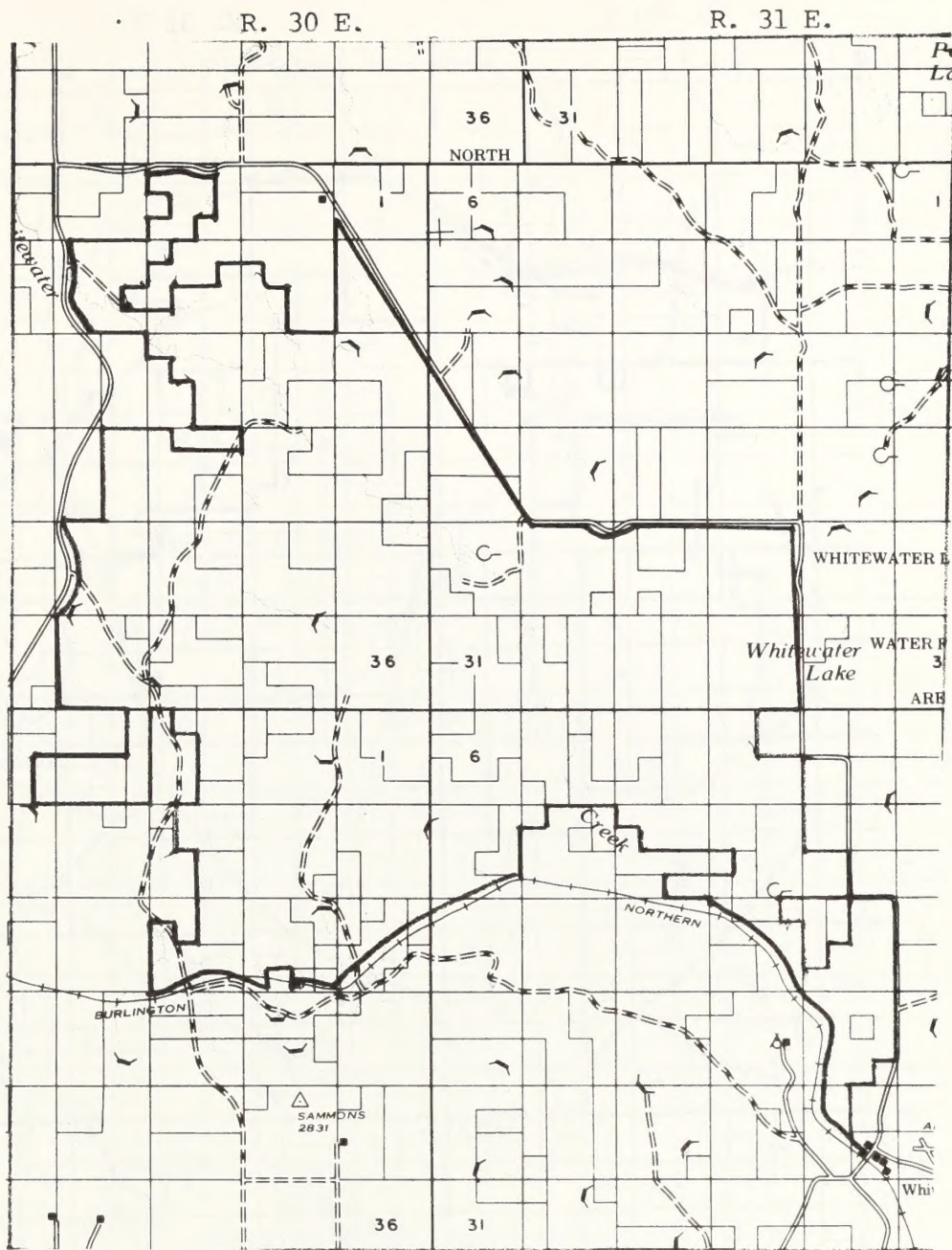


T. 36 N.

T. 35 N.

L-309-D

West Whitewater Lake #310



T. 36 N.

T. 35 N.

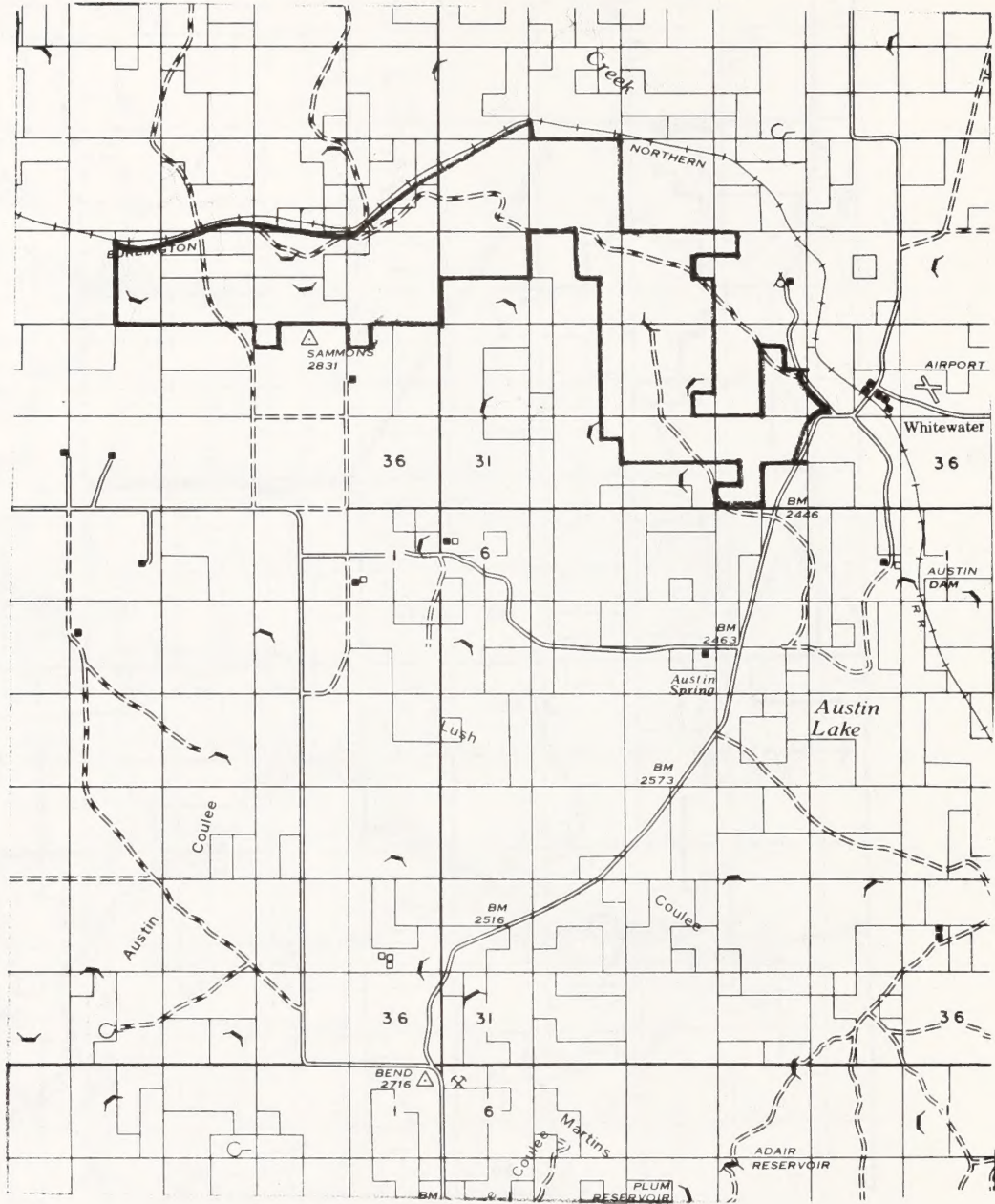
L-310-D

Sink Coulee #311

R. 30 E.

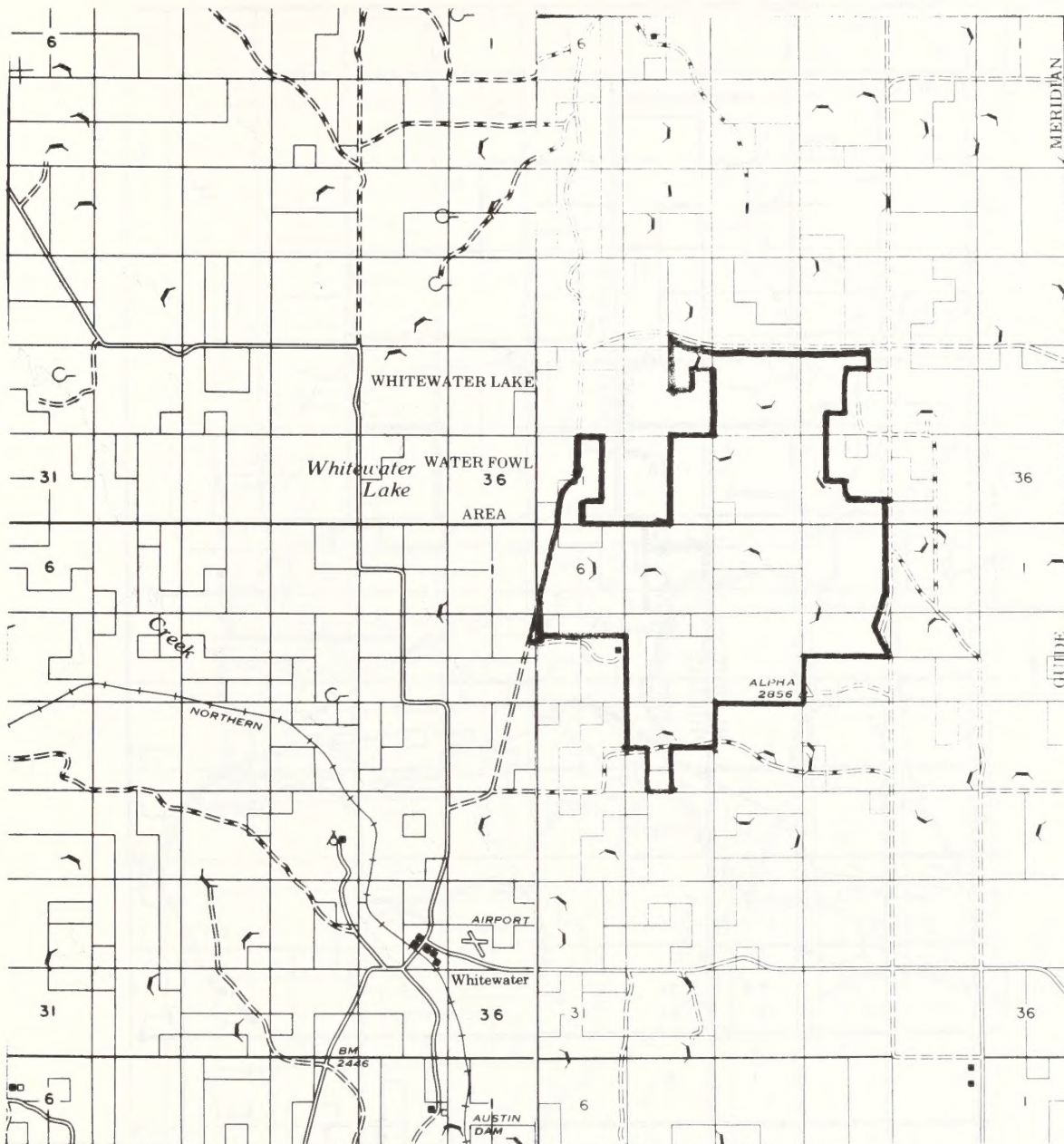
R. 31 E.

T. 35 N.



L-311-D

T. 35 N.



L-312-D

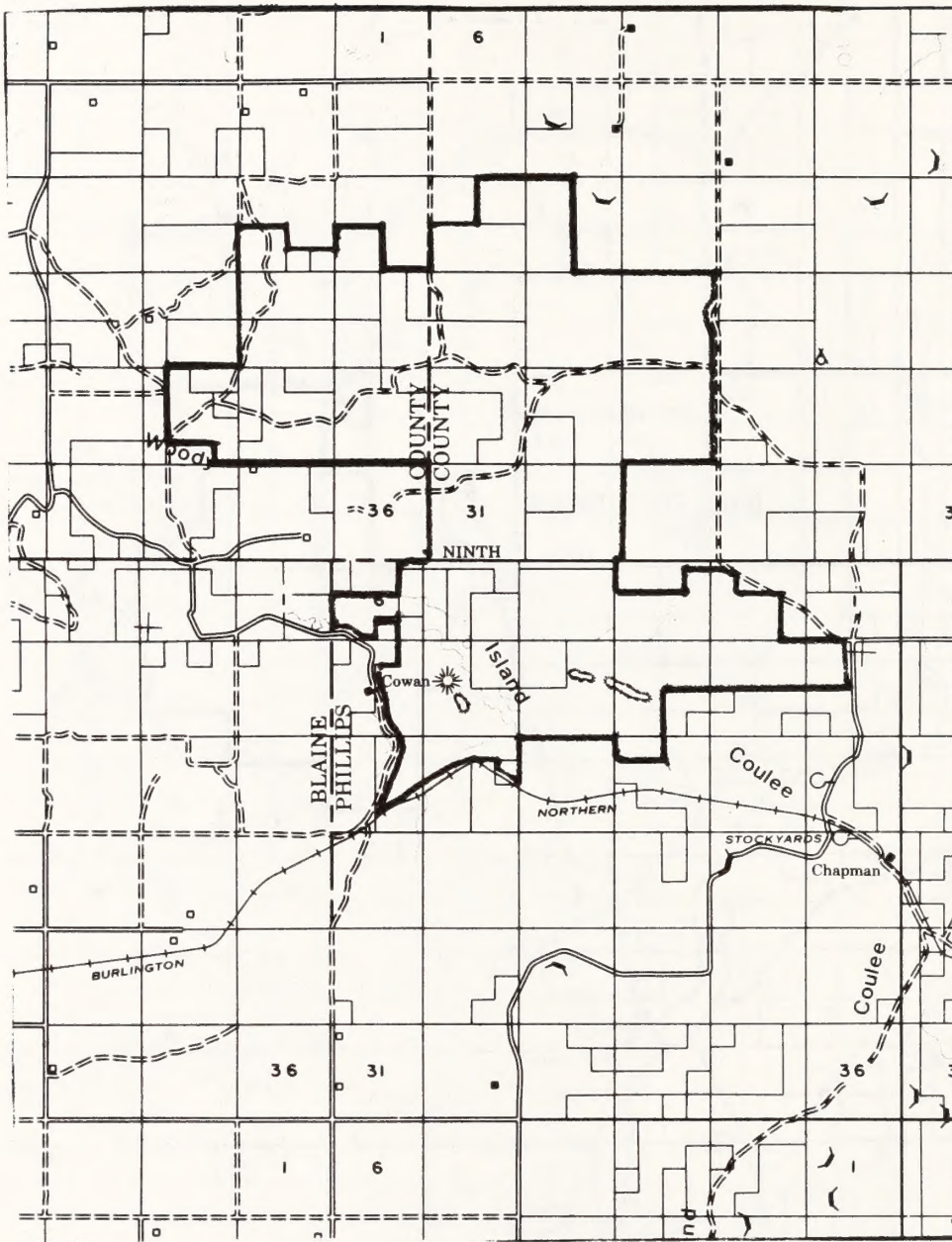
North Woody Island #313

R. 26 E.

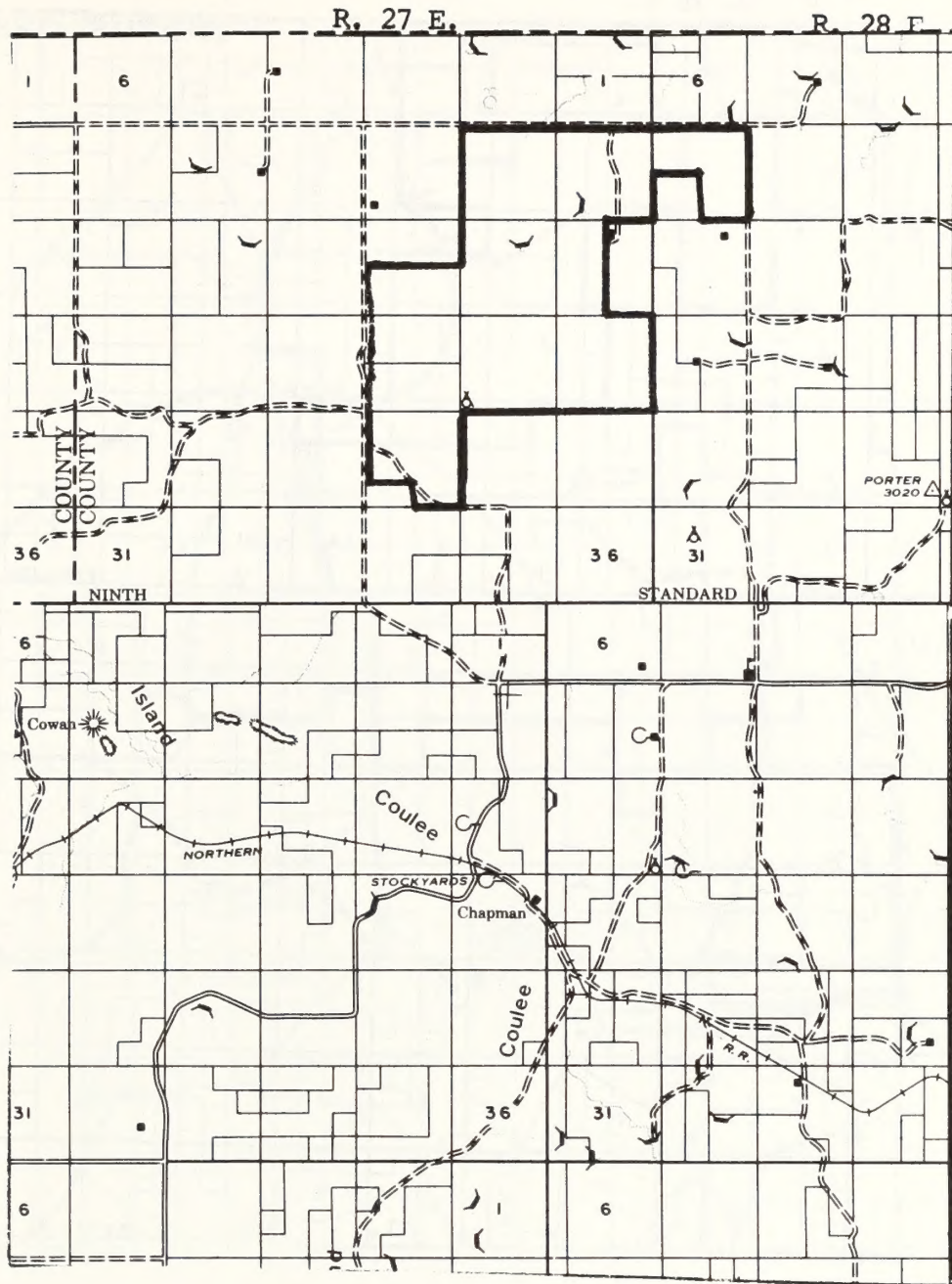
R. 27 E.

T. 37 N.

T. 36 N.



L-313-D

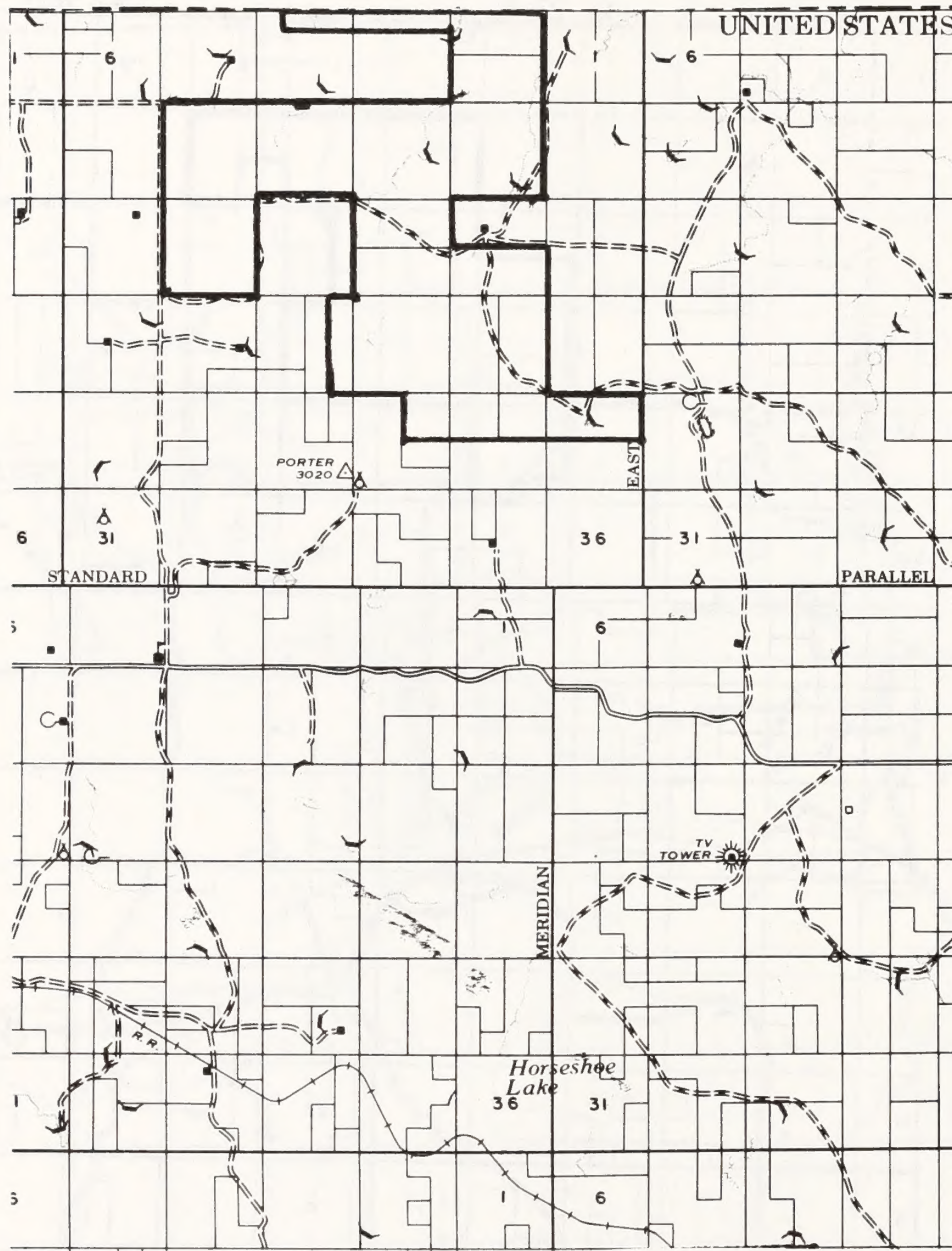


T. 37 N.

L-314-D

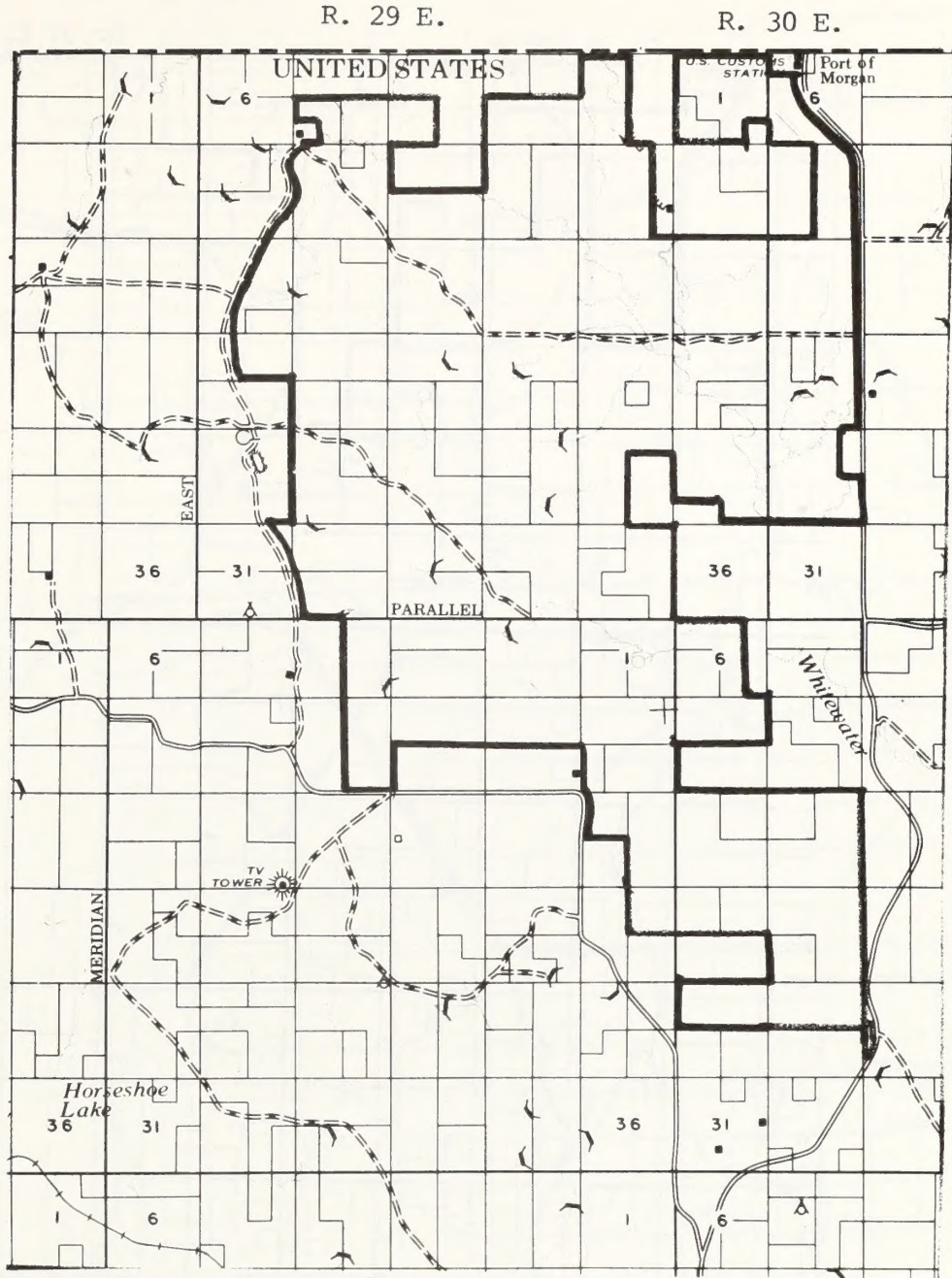
Upper Whitewater Creek #315

R. 28 E.



T. 37 N.

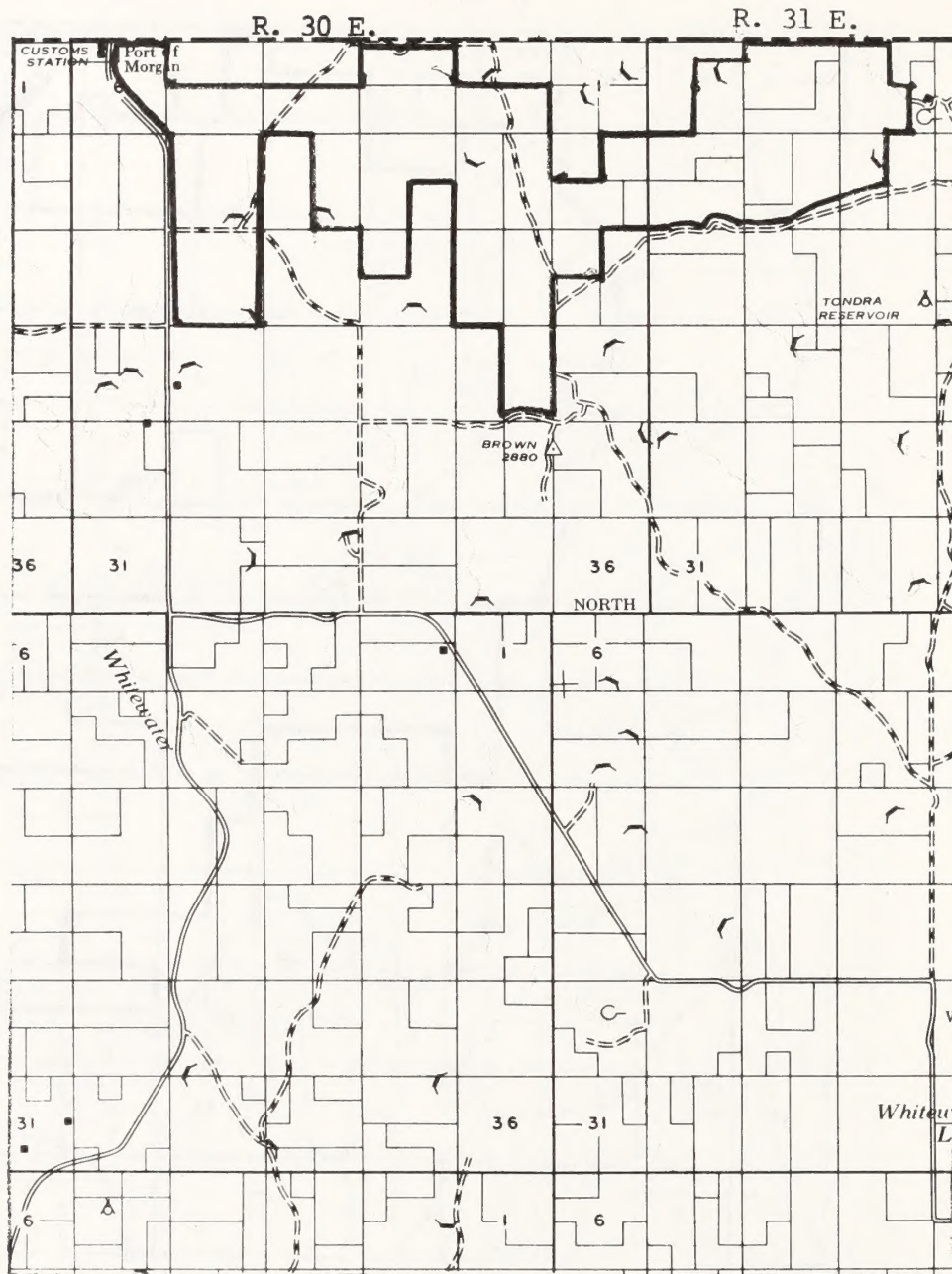
L-315-D



T. 37 N.

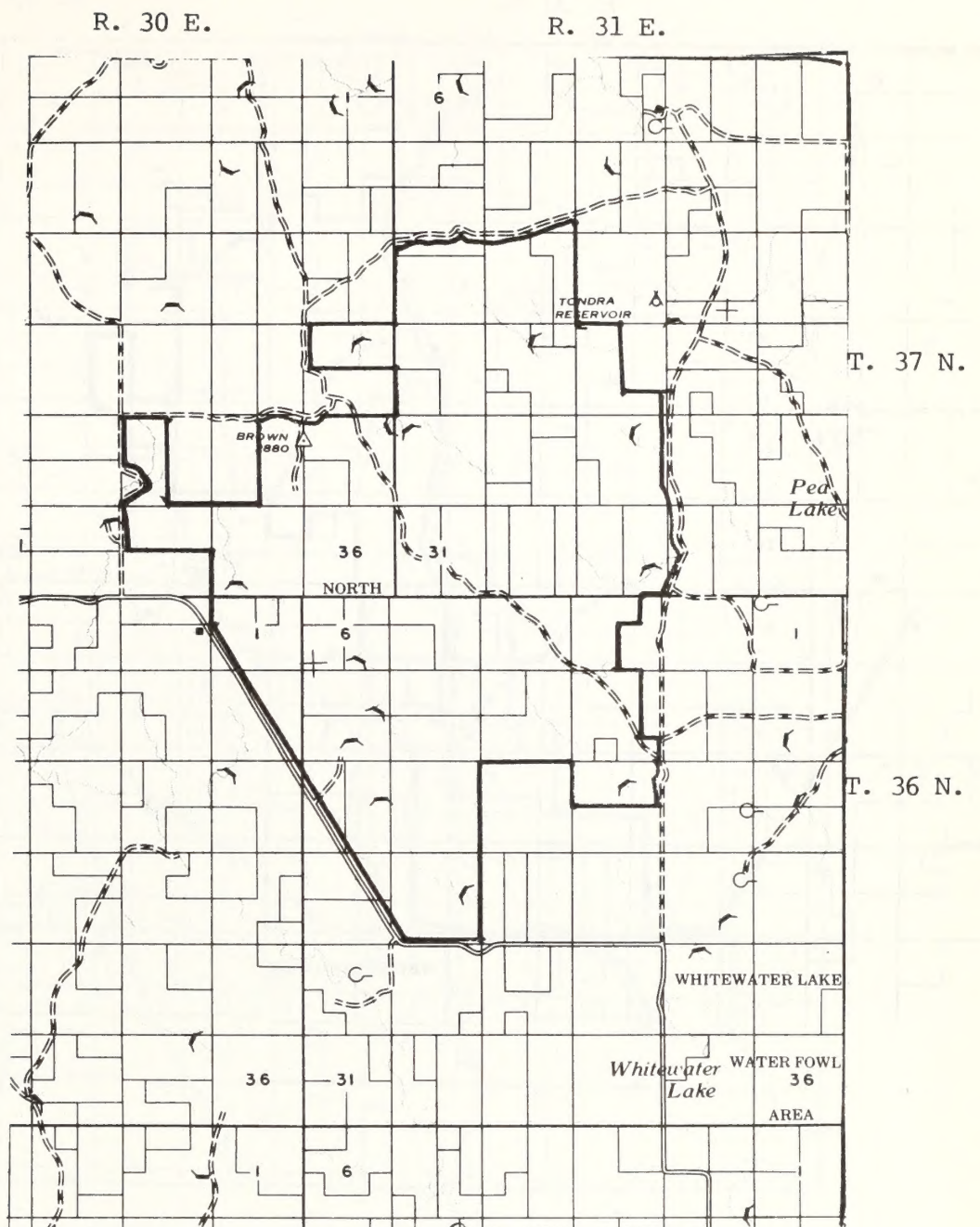
T. 36 N.

L-316-D



T. 37 N.

L-317-D

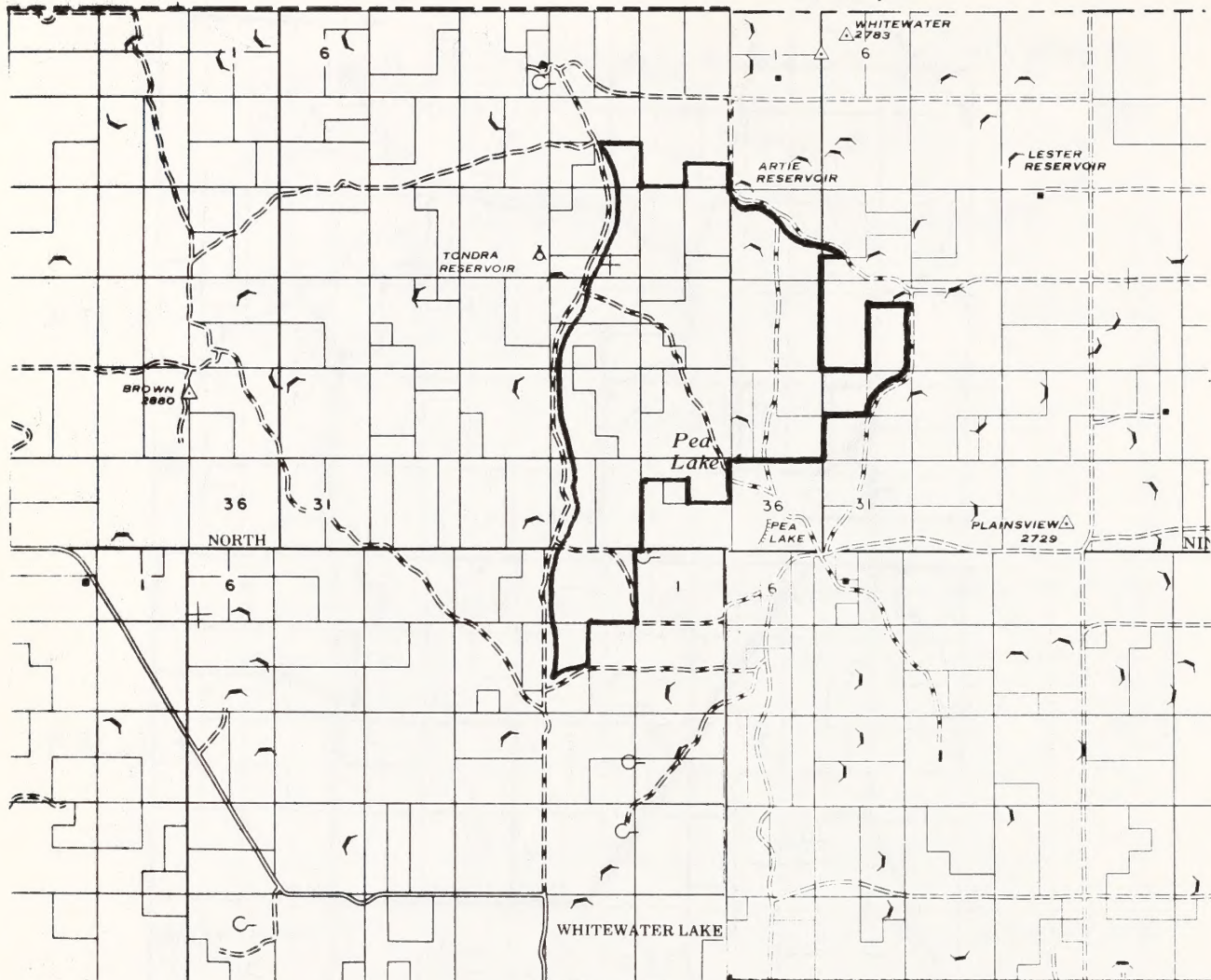


L-318-D

Pea Lake #319

R. 31 E.

R. 32 E.



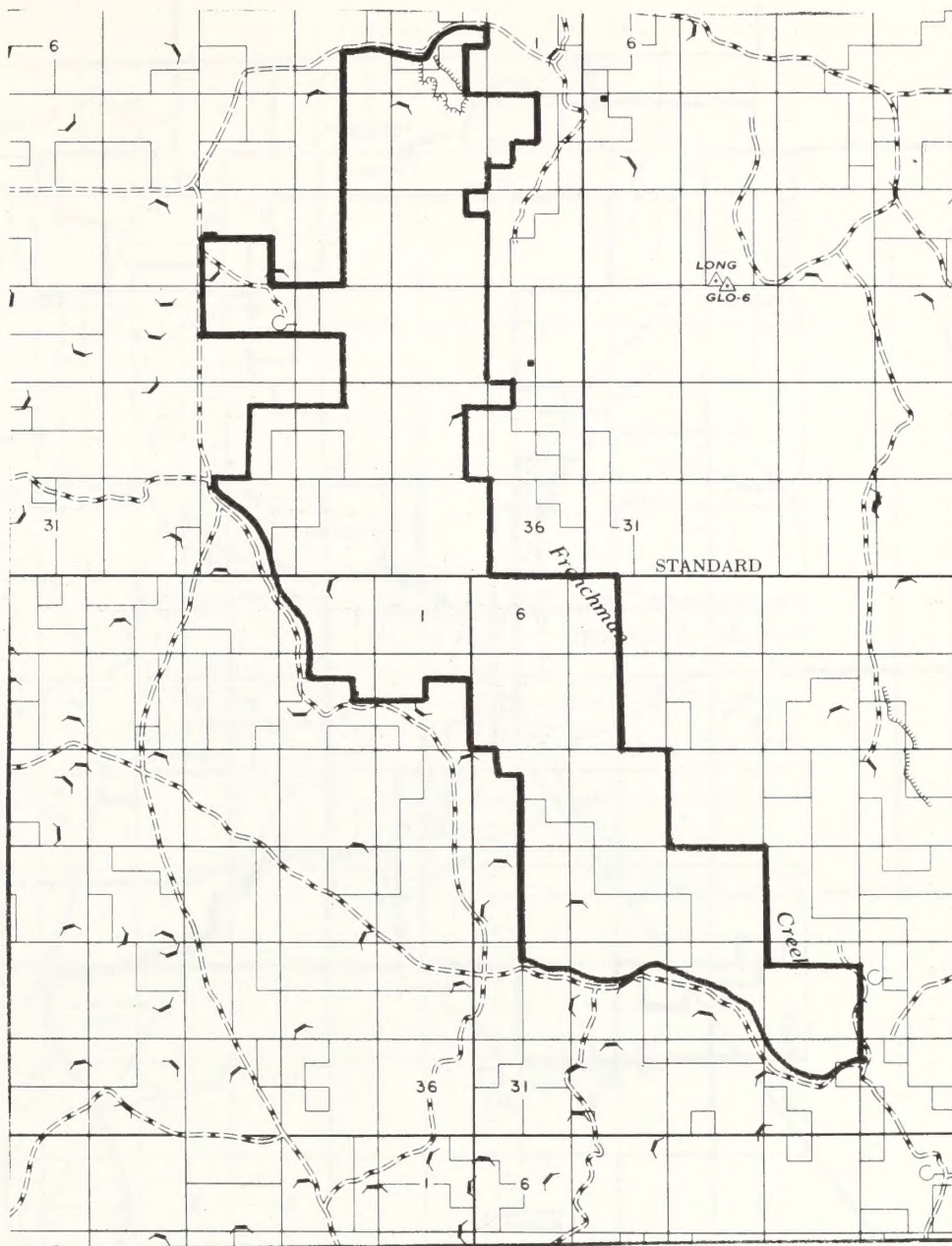
T. 37 N.

L-319-D

Frenchman Creek West #320

R. 33 E.

R. 34 E.



T. 37 N.

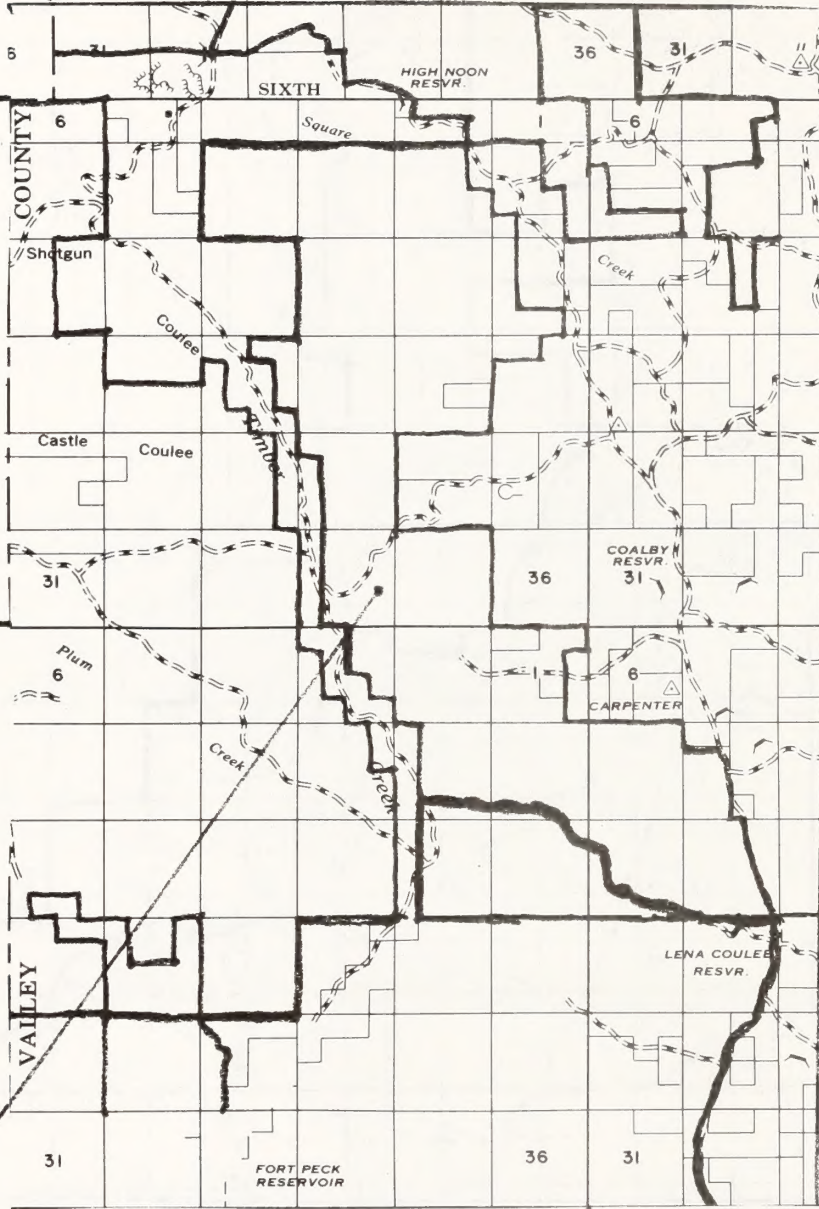
T. 36 N.

L-320-D

R-35 E

7^N

T-24 N



T-23 N

R-36 E

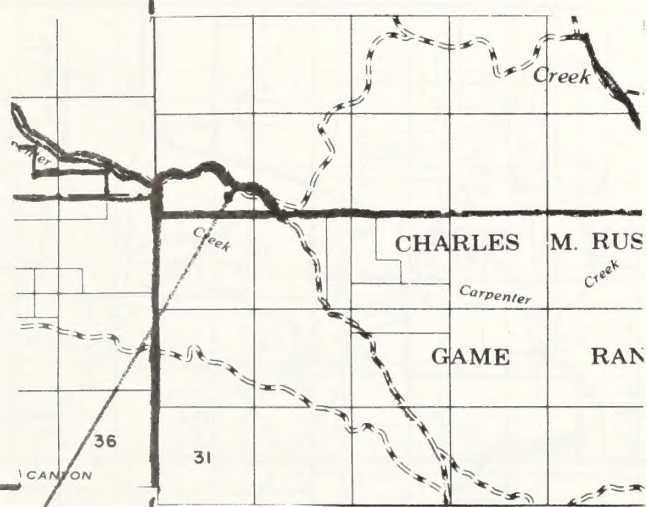
323

L-323-D

7^N

R-36 E

T-23 N



R-36 E

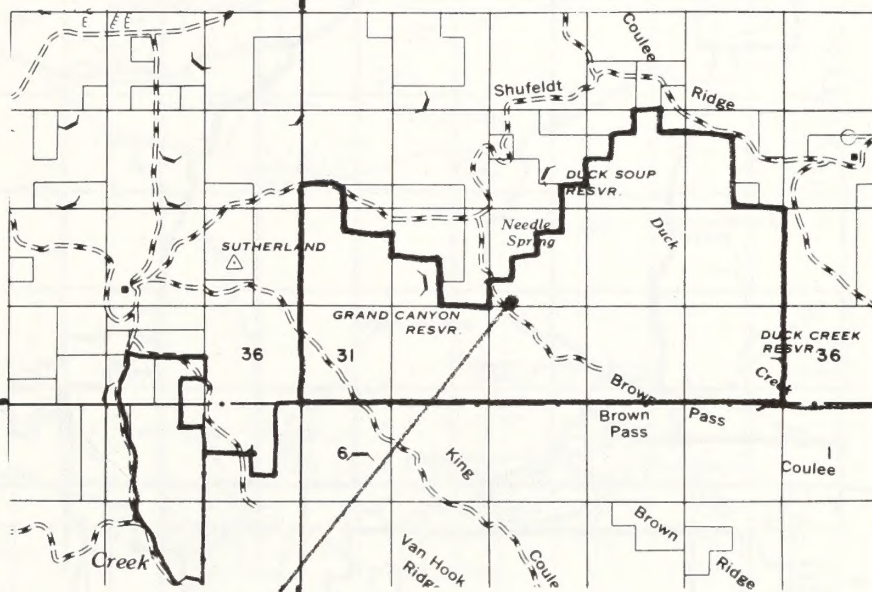
325

L-325-D

1^N

R-36 E

T-24 N



R-37 E

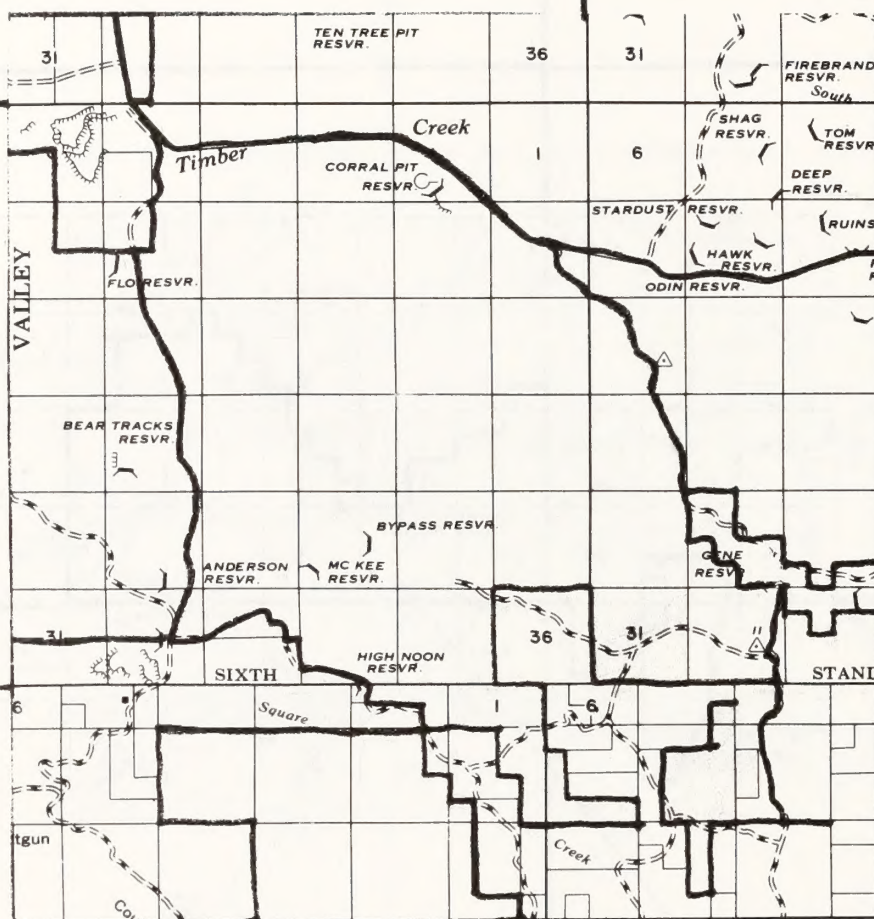
328

L-328-D

1 N

R-35 E

T-25-N



R-34 E

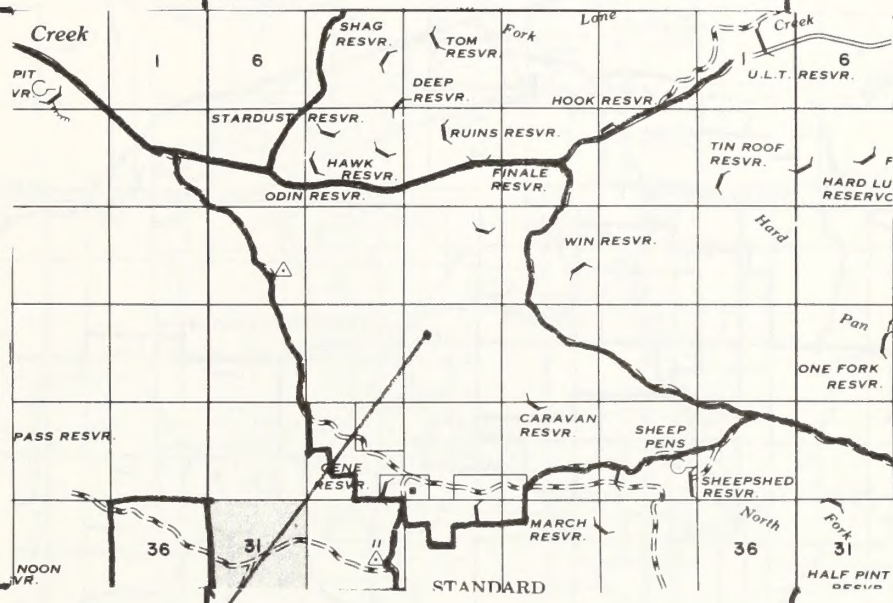
L-329-D

329

↑ N

R-35 E

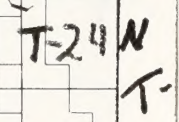
T-25 N



330

L-330-D

42



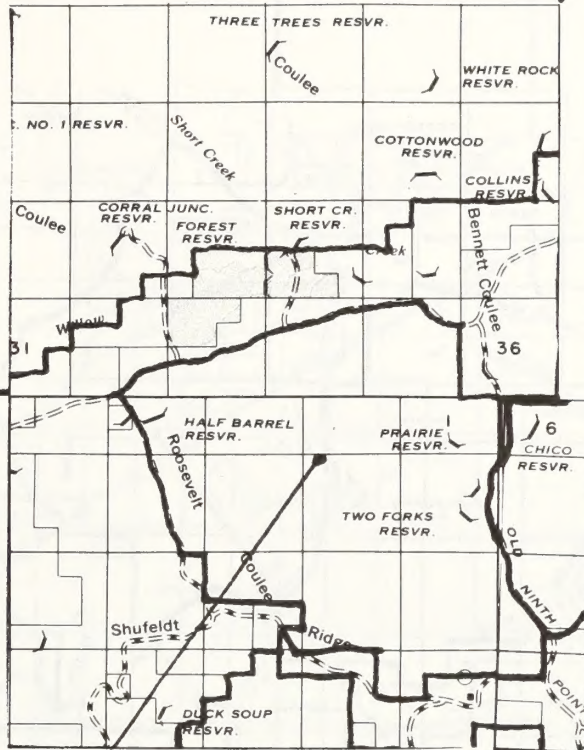
331

396

R-37E

T-25 N

T-24 N

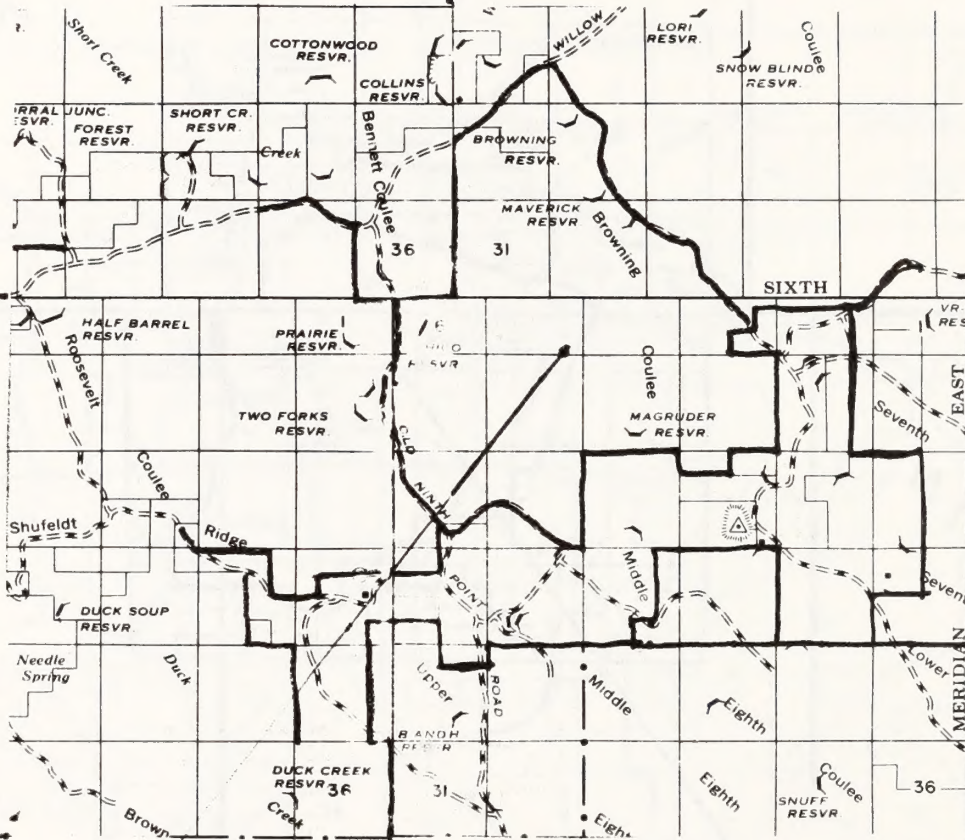


332

L-332-D

1^N

R-37E



T-34 N

R-38E

333

L-333-D

1^N

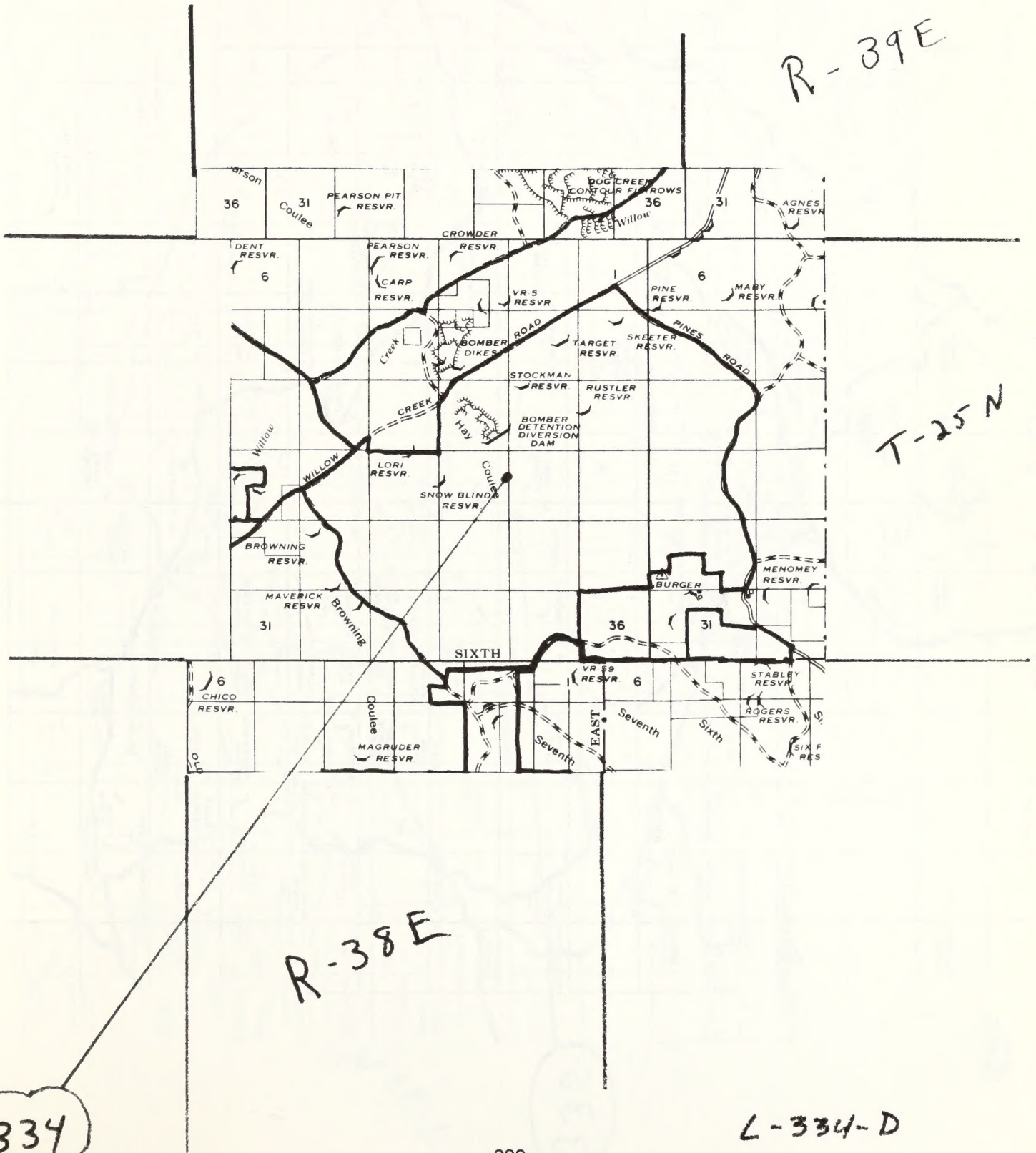
R-39E

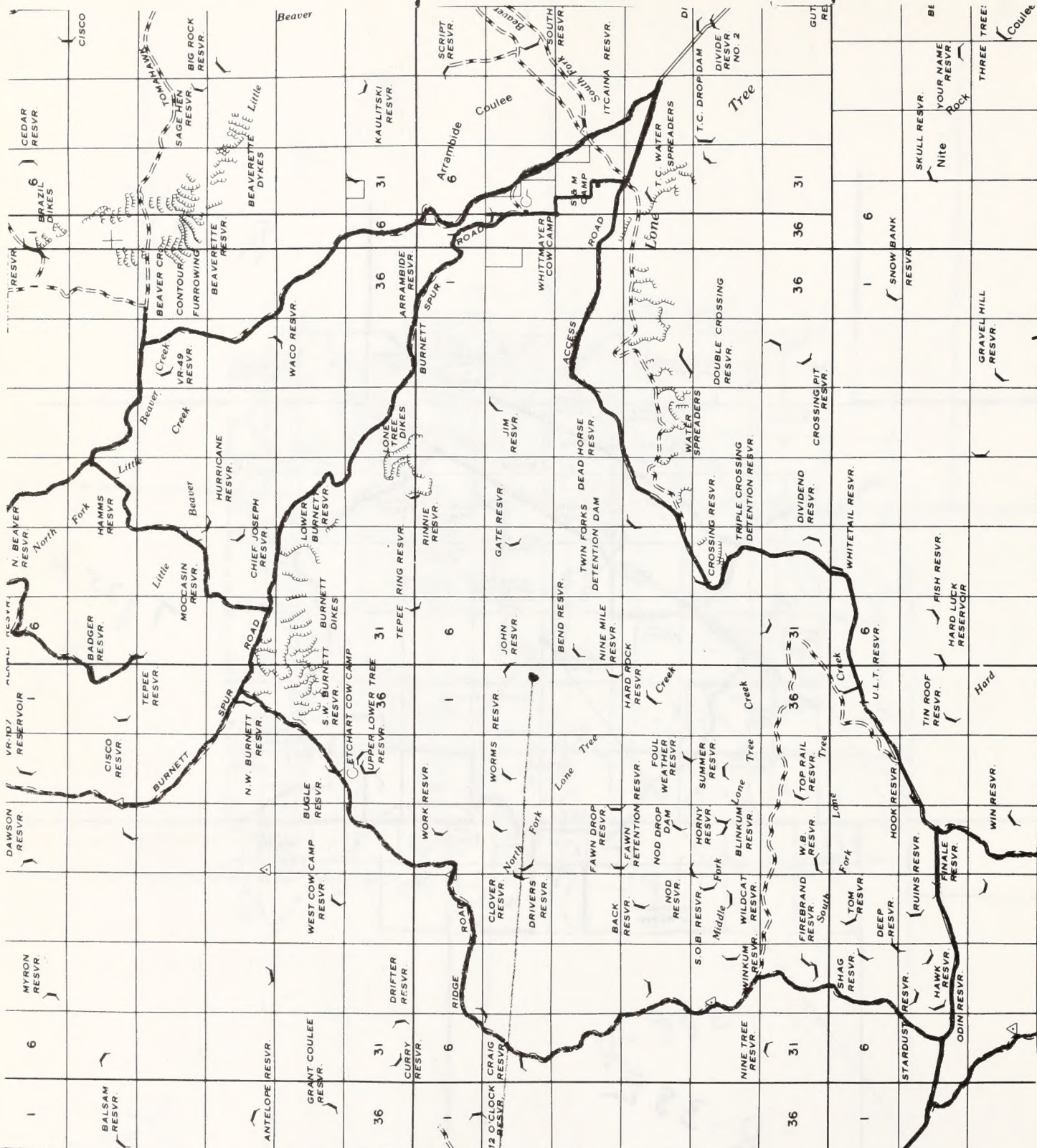
T-25N

R-38E

L-334-D

334





335

R35 E

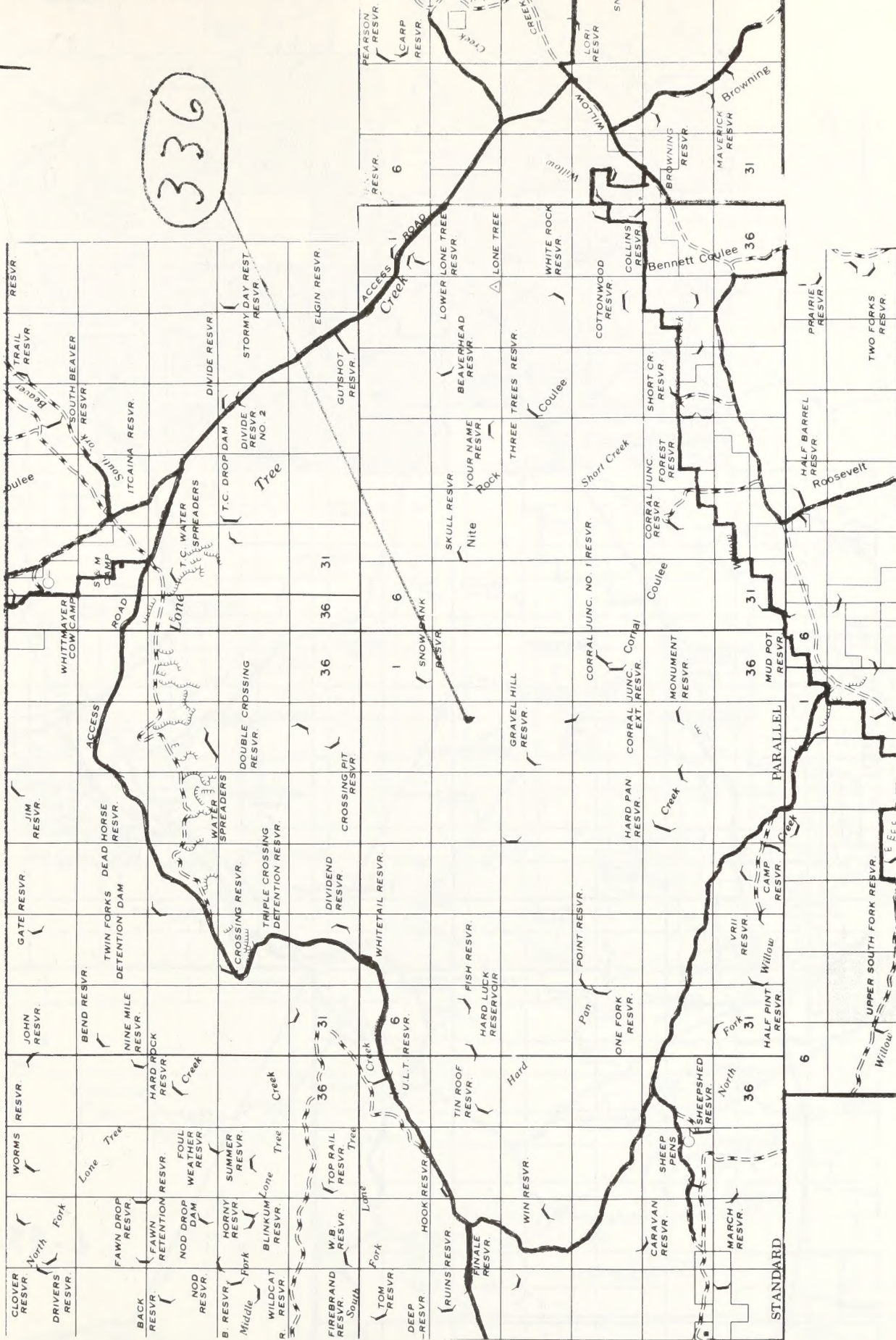
T-26

330

1 N

1 N

336

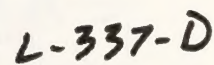


T-26 N

R 36 E

336

T-27N



337

[illegible]

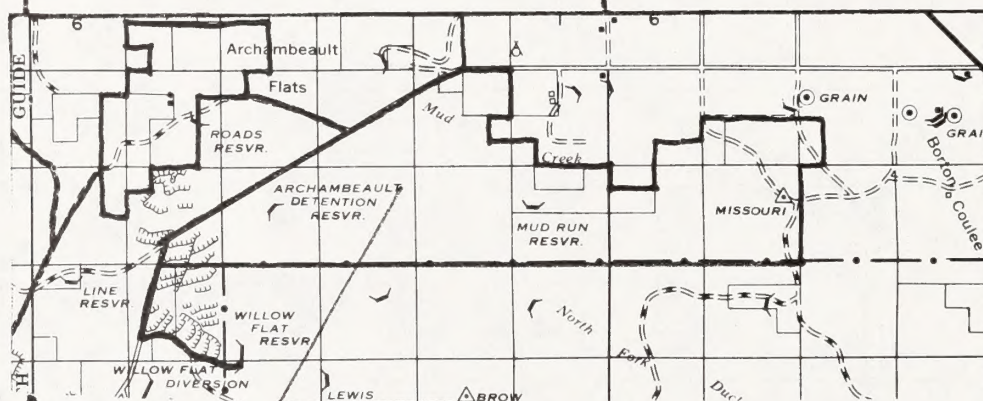
338

R-38E

L-338-D

↑ N

-26 N



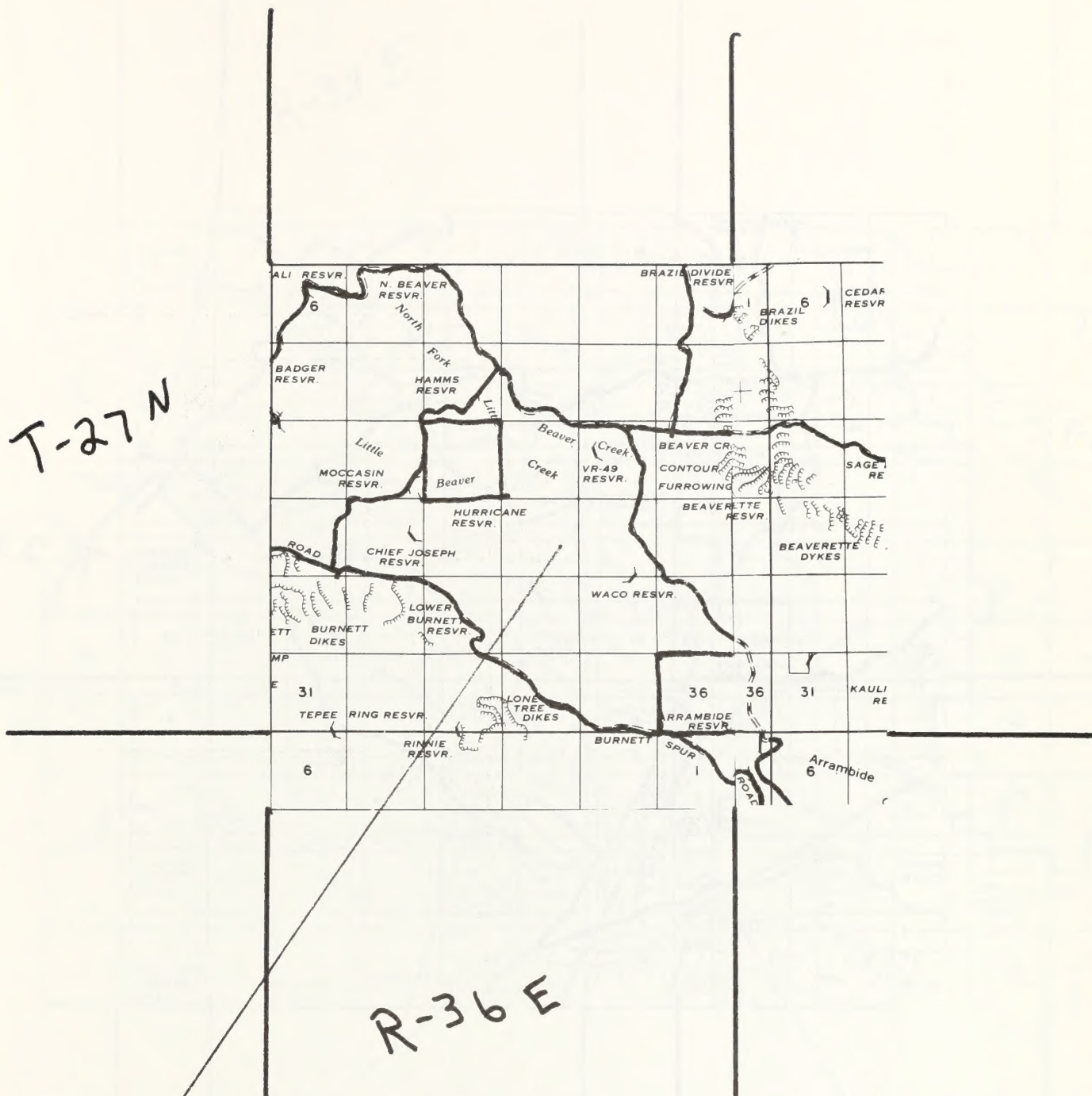
R-39E

339

L-339-D

340

T-27^N



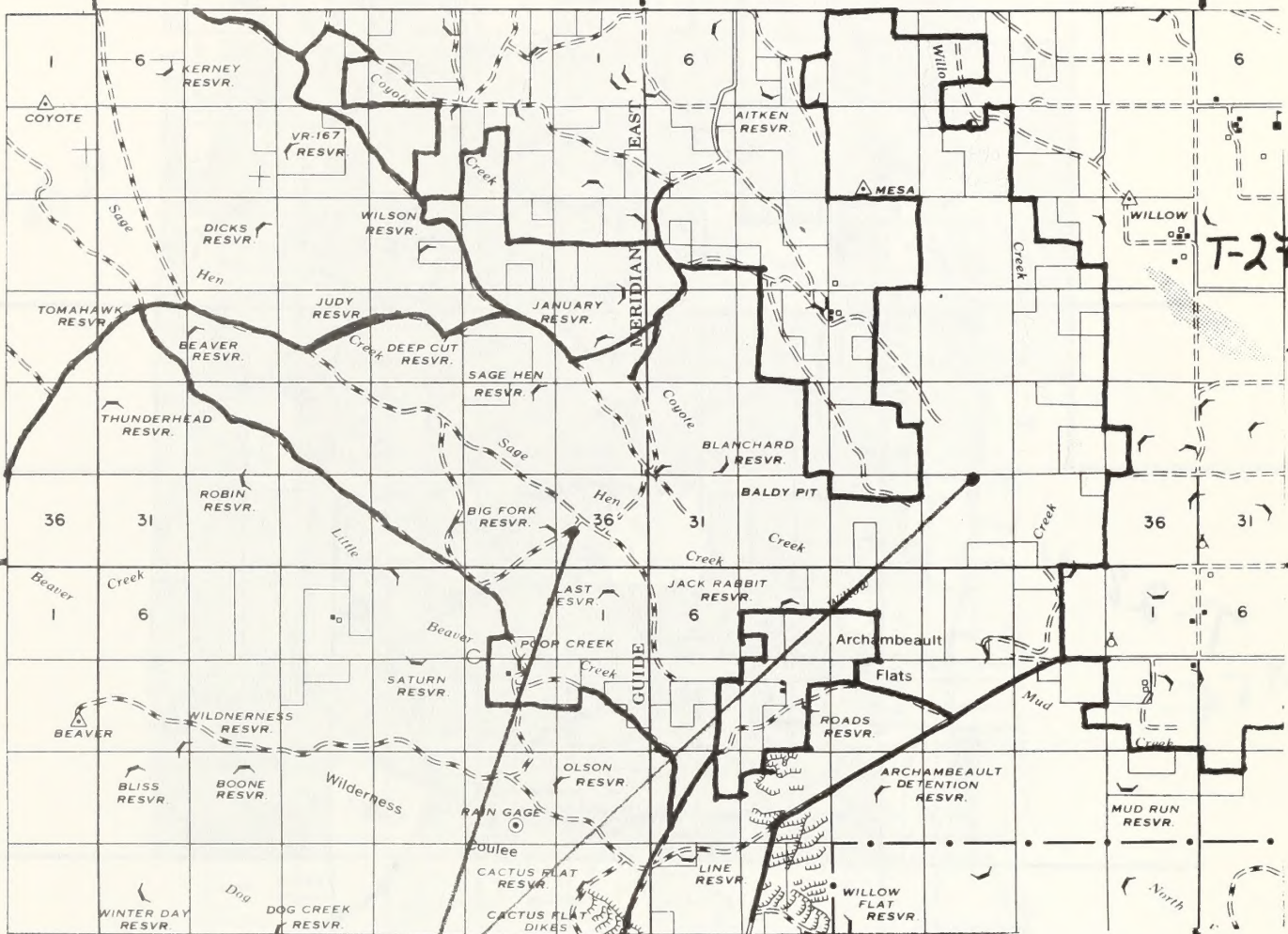
R-36E

340

L-340-D

7 N

R-38 E



T-27N

T

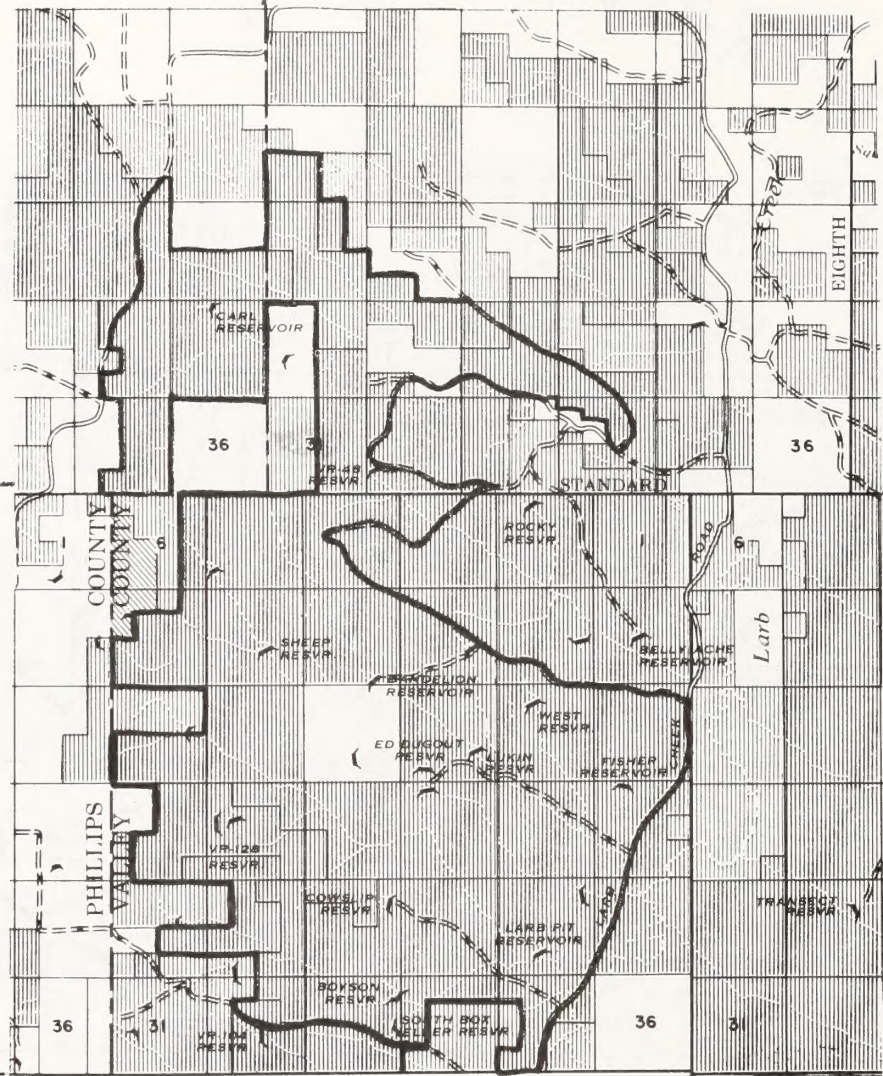
R-39 E

L-342-D

342

7 N

T-28 N



R-35 E

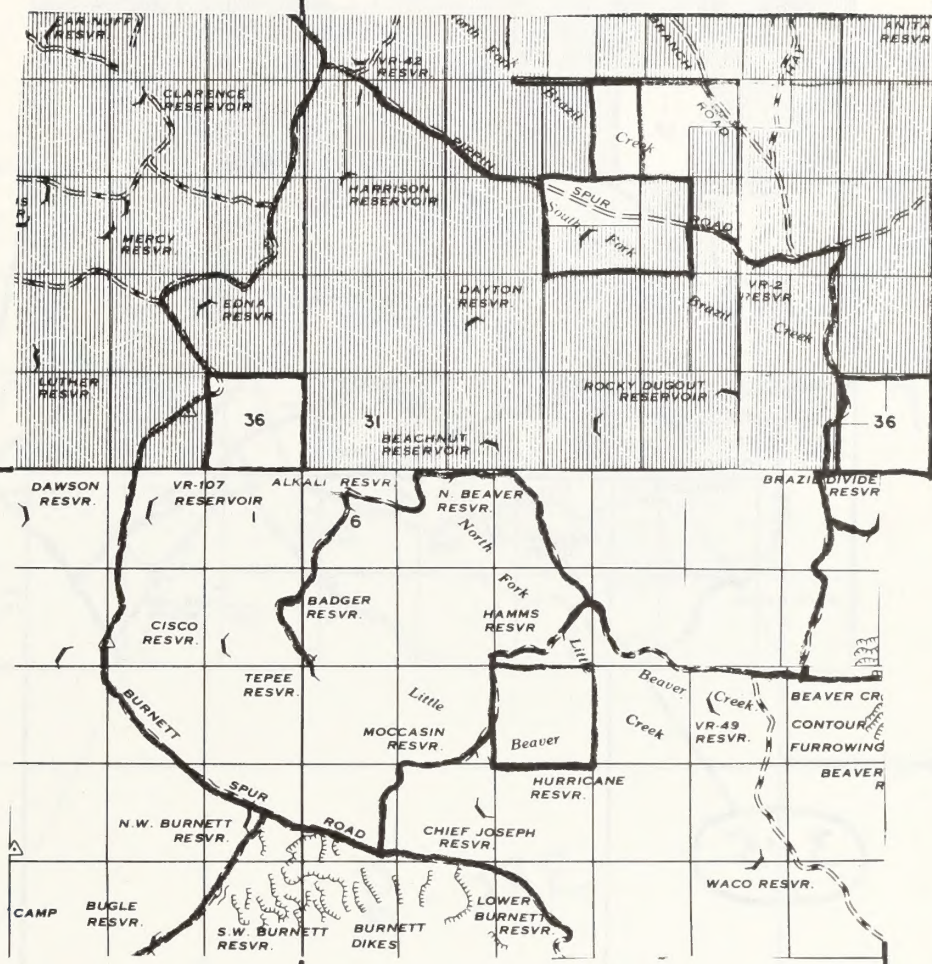
343

L-343-D

344

7 N

T-28 N



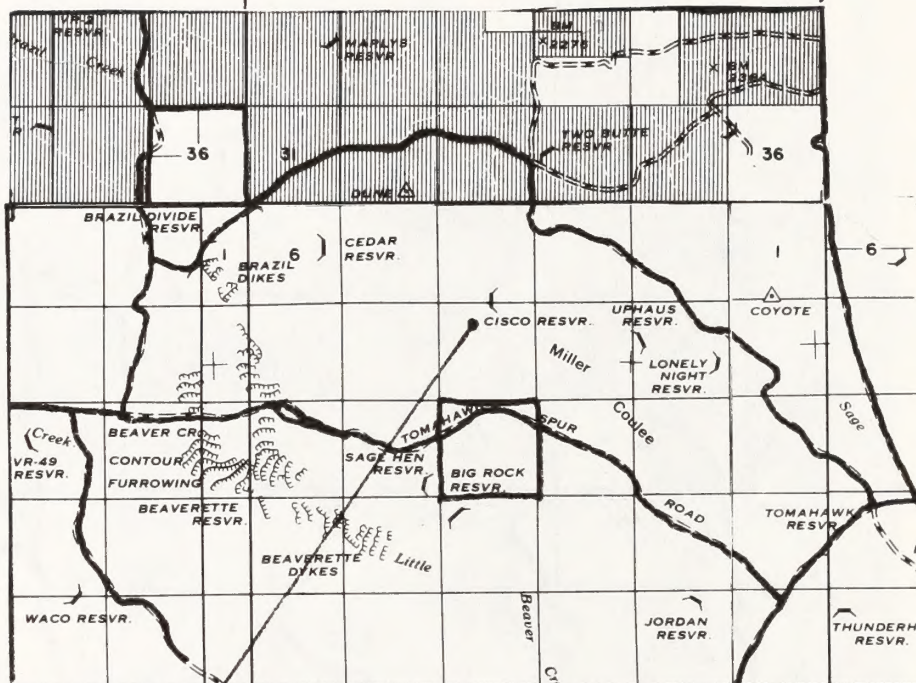
T-27 N

R-36 E

344

L-344-D

个



T-271

345

T-26 N

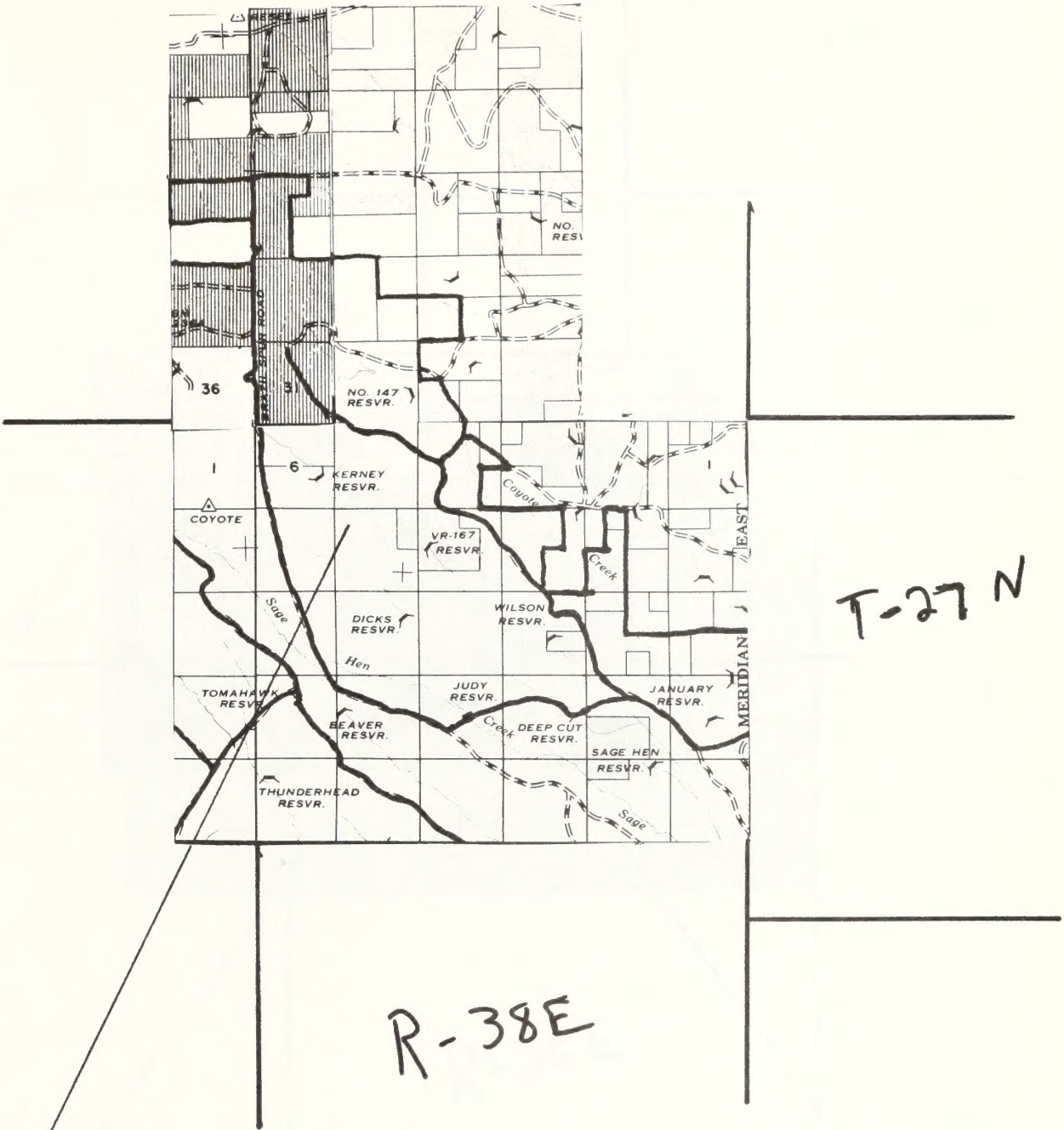
R-38E

R-37E

L-345-D

346

1 N

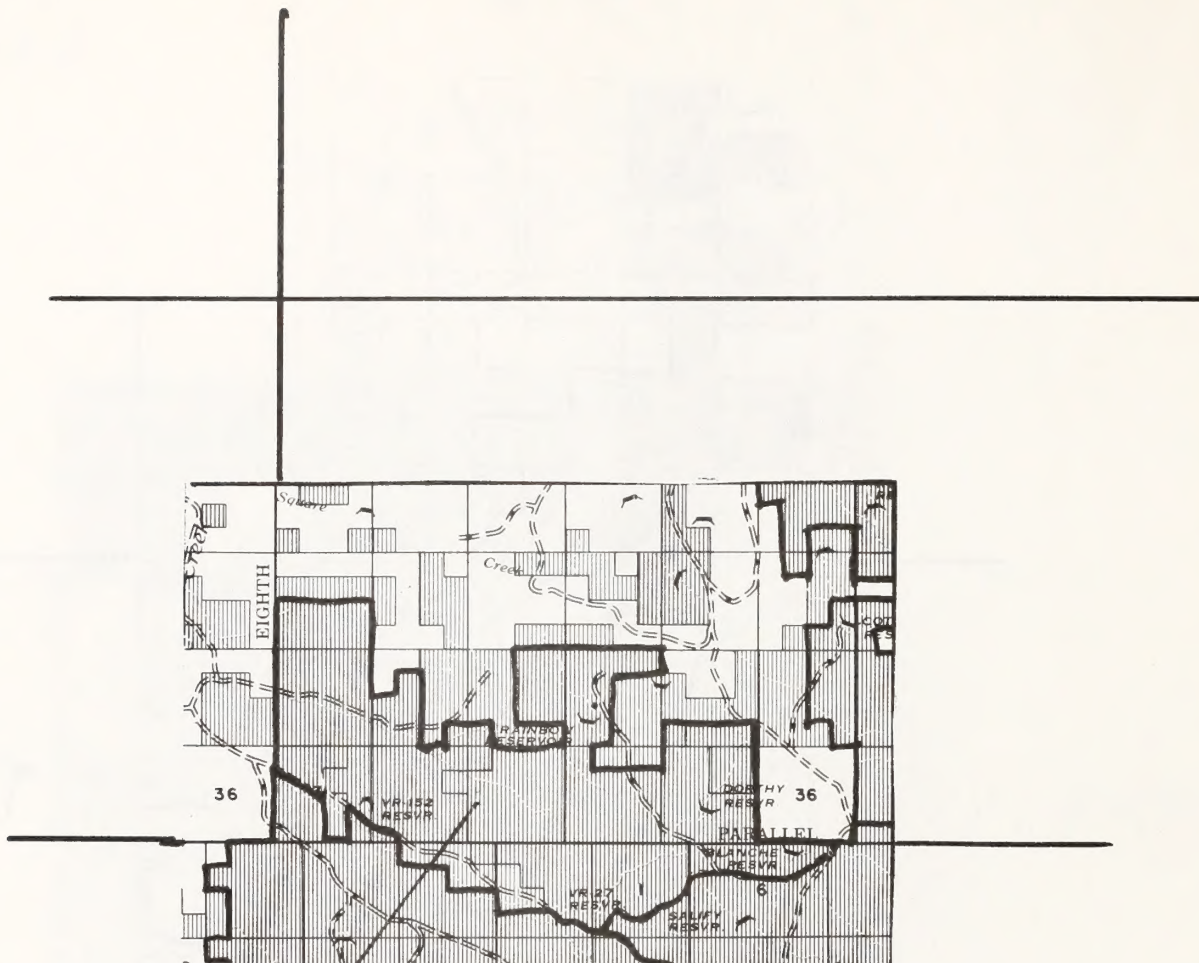


T-27 N

R-38E

346

L-346-D



347

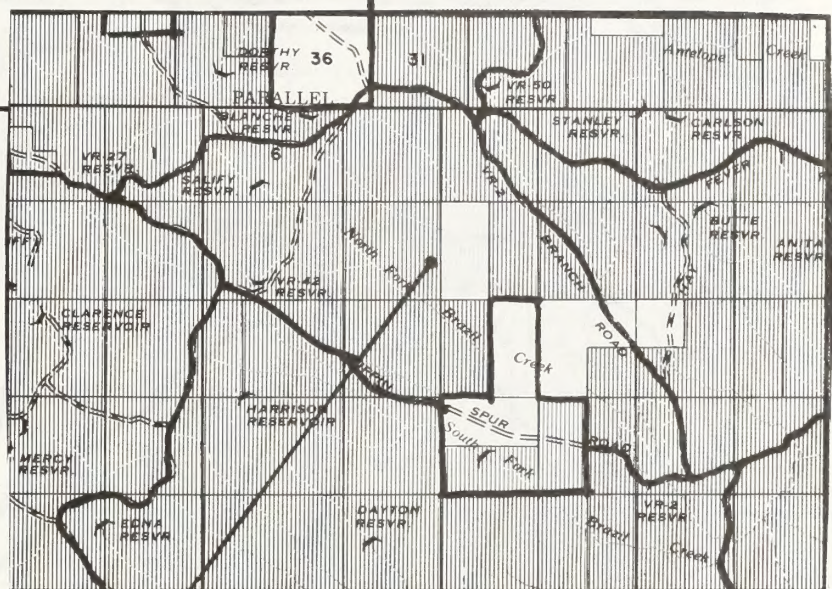
L-347-D

34

1^N

R-35 E

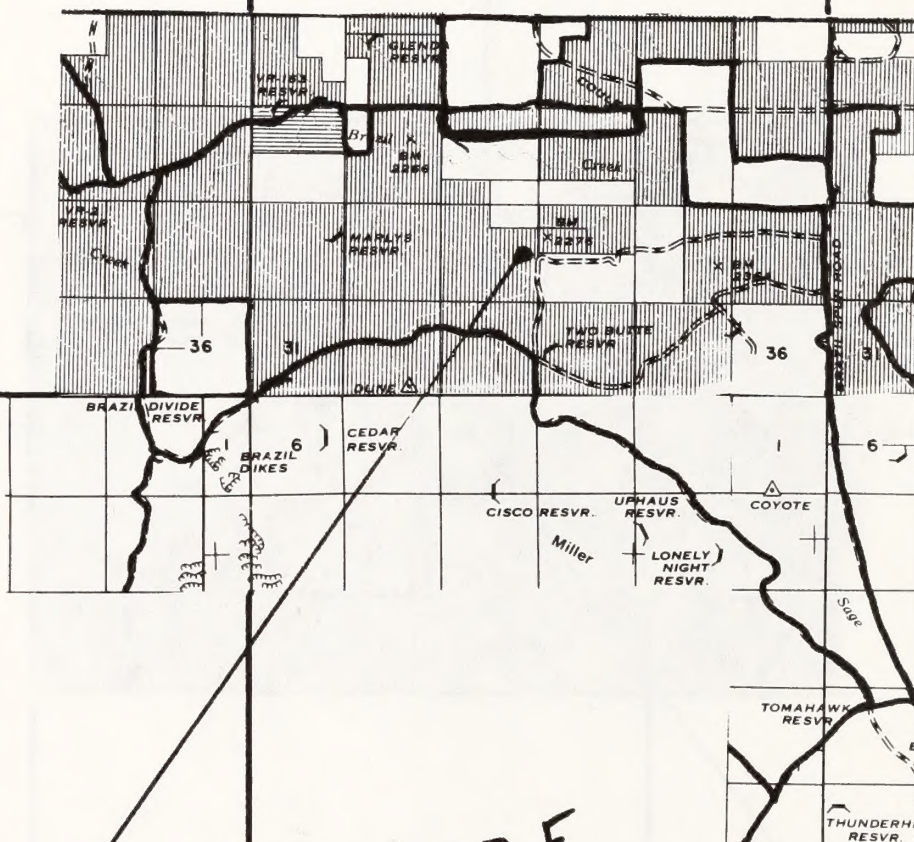
T-28 N



R-36 E

348

L-348-D

γ^N
$$T = 28^\circ \text{N}$$


R-37 E

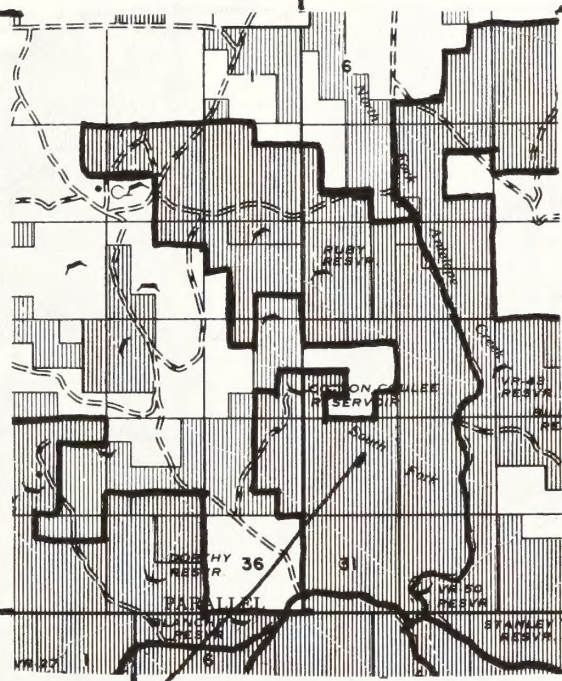
349

L-349-D

1^N

R-35 E

T-29 N

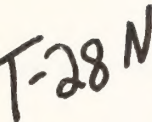


R-36 E

350

L-350-D

7^N



R-37E

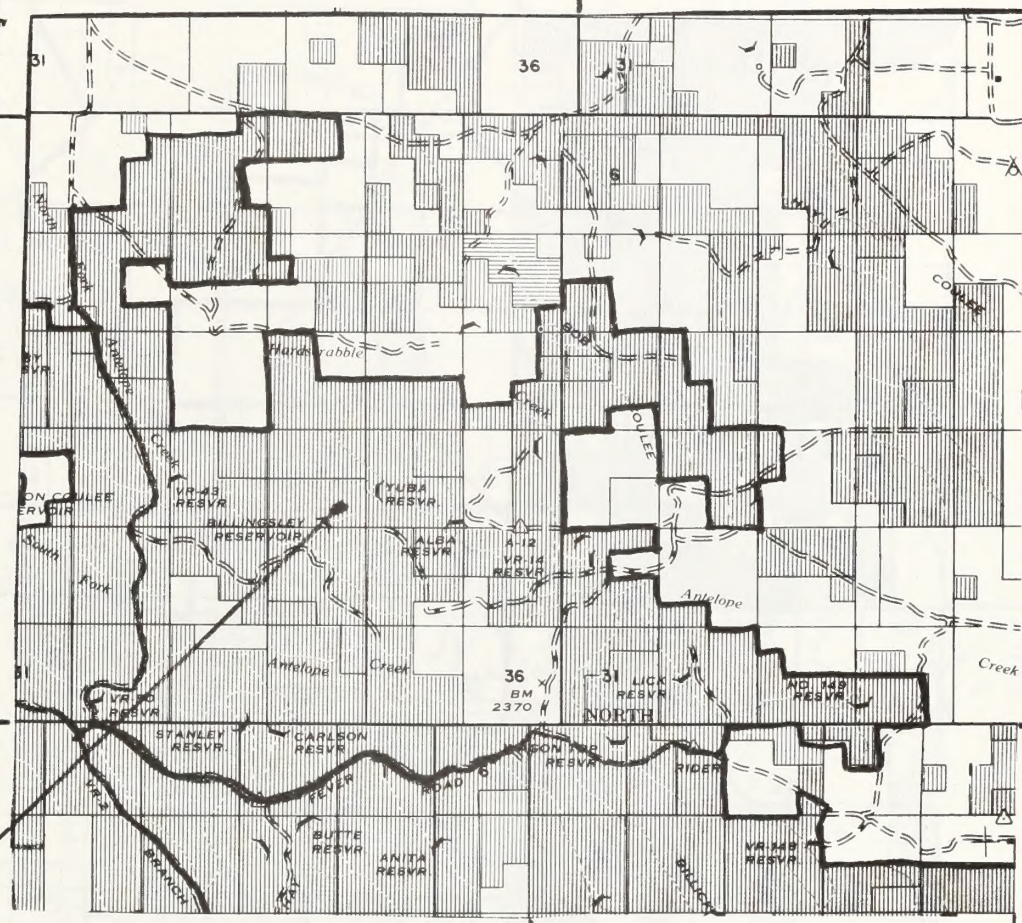
351

L-351-D

N
y

R-37E

T-29N



T-28N

352

R-36E

L-352-D

1

4



4

4

4

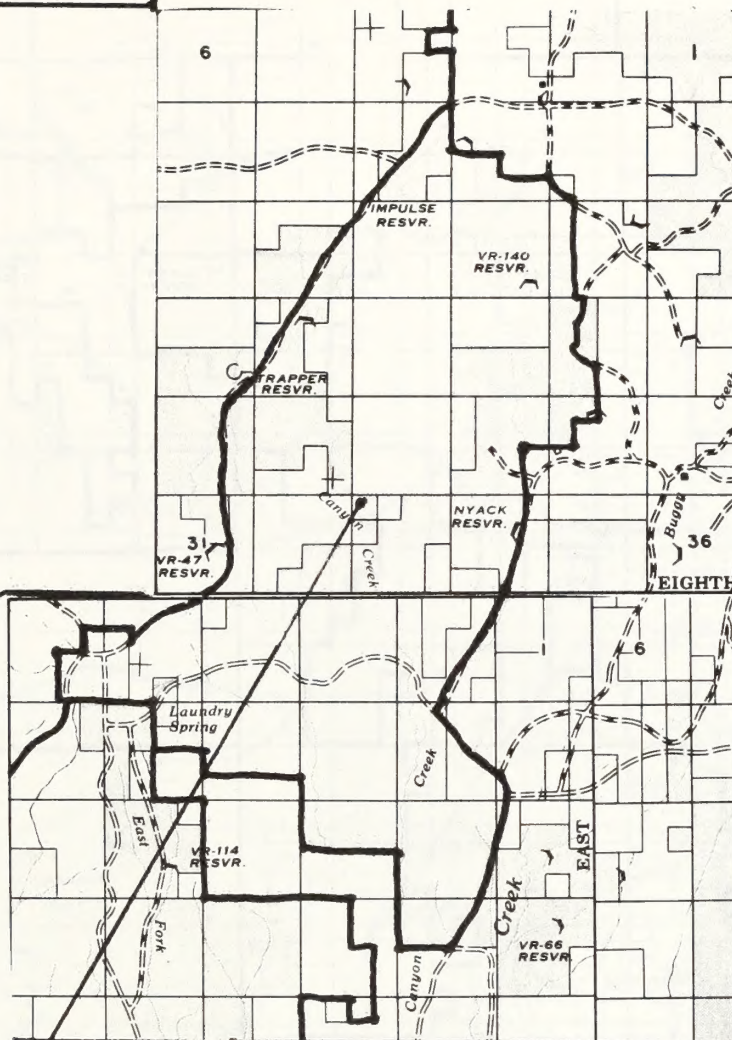
4

4

R-38E

1^N

T-33N



T-32N

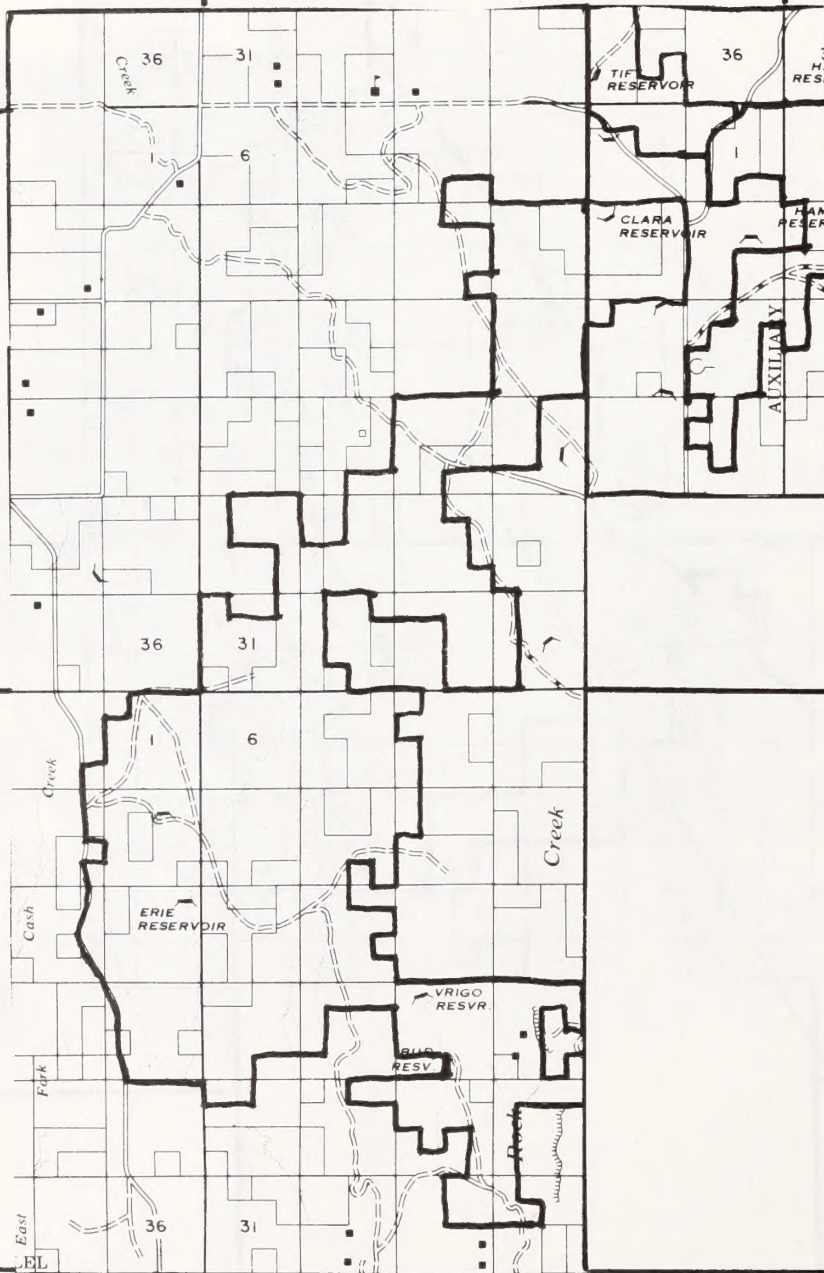
(354)

L-354-D

7^N

R-36E

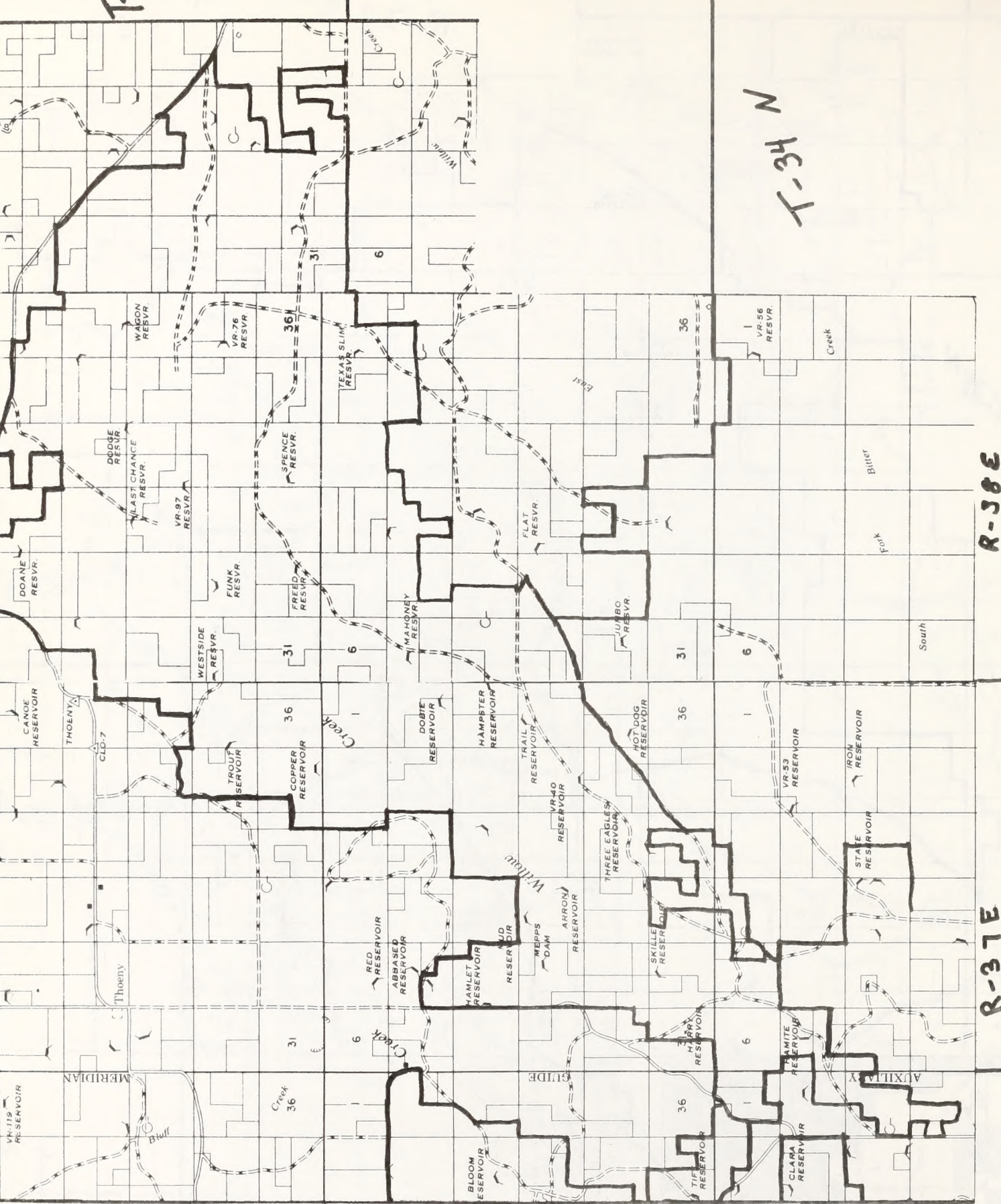
T-34 N



T-33 N

R-36-E

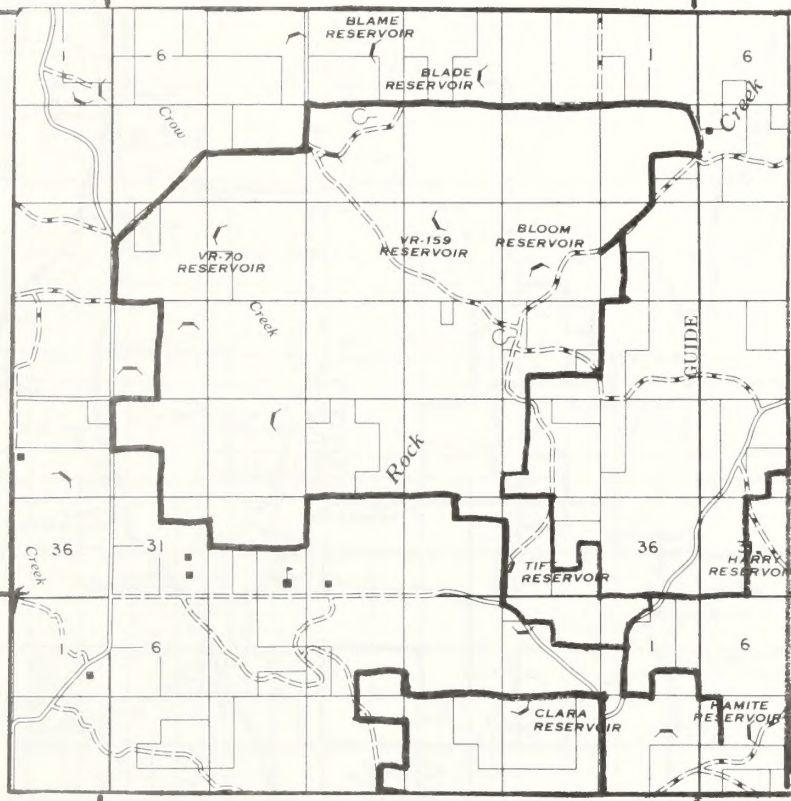
L-355-D



7^N

R-35 E

T-35 N



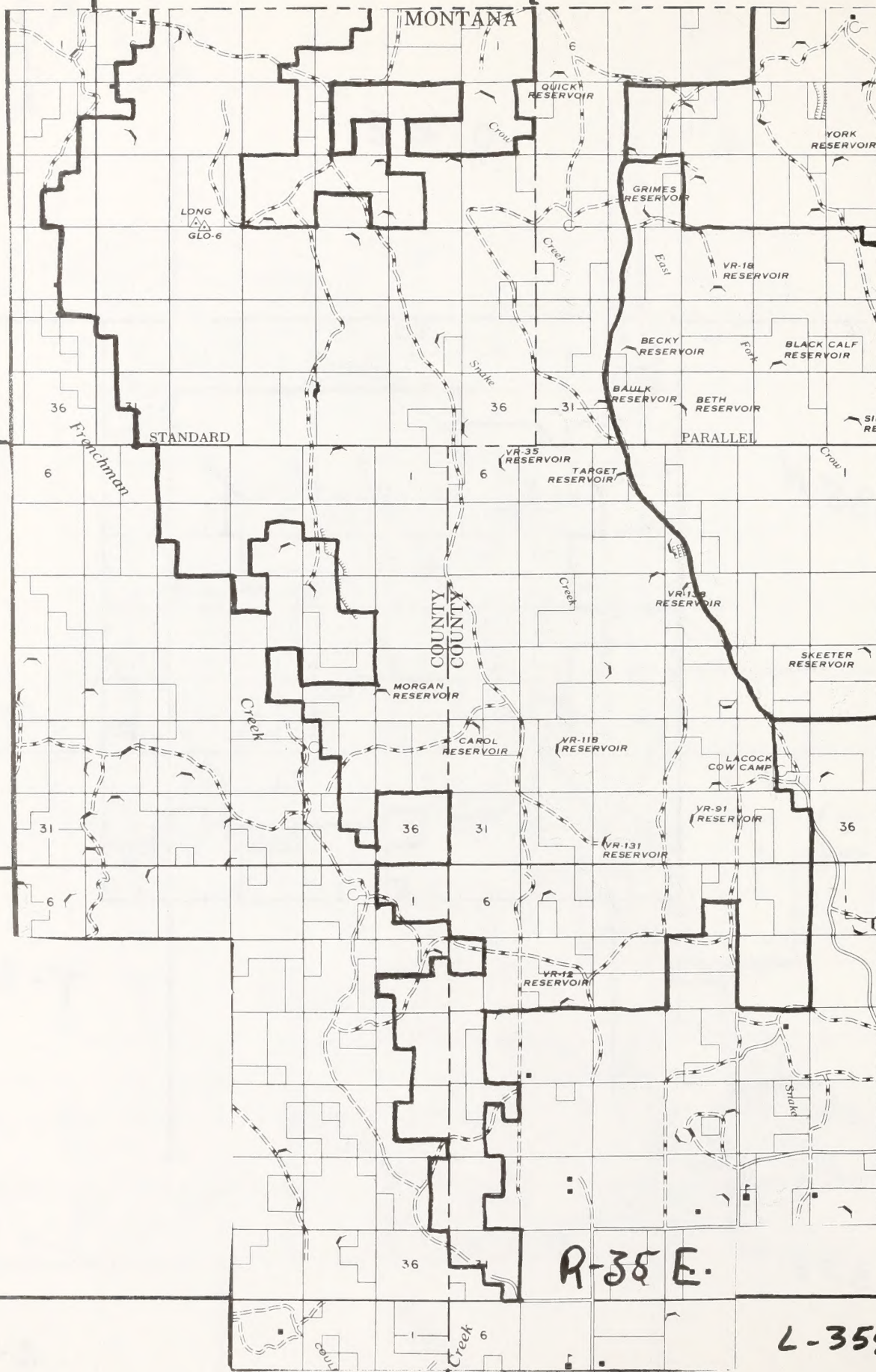
T-34 N

358

L-358-D

R-34 E

7 N



T-37
T-37N

T-36N

T35N
T-35

359

R-35 E.

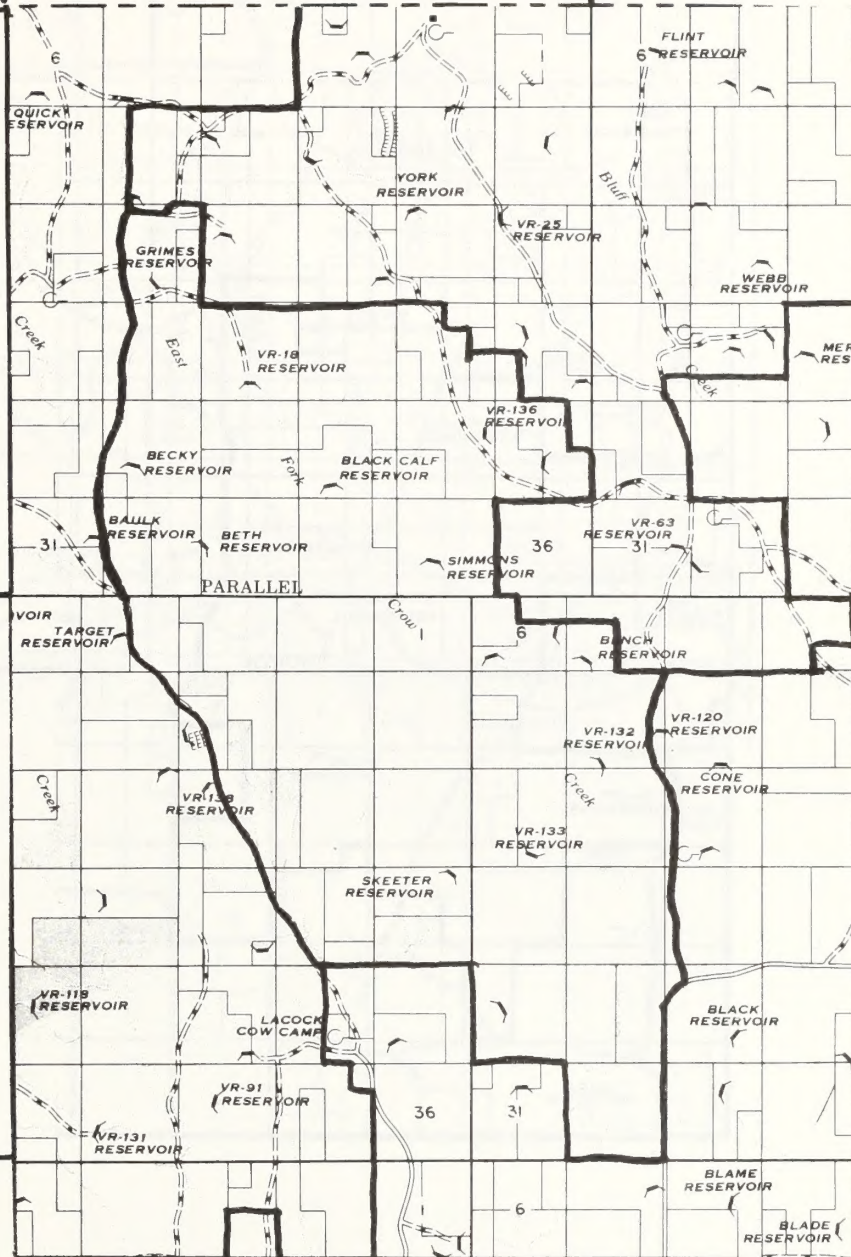
L-359-D

R-35 E

7 N

T-37 N

T-36 N



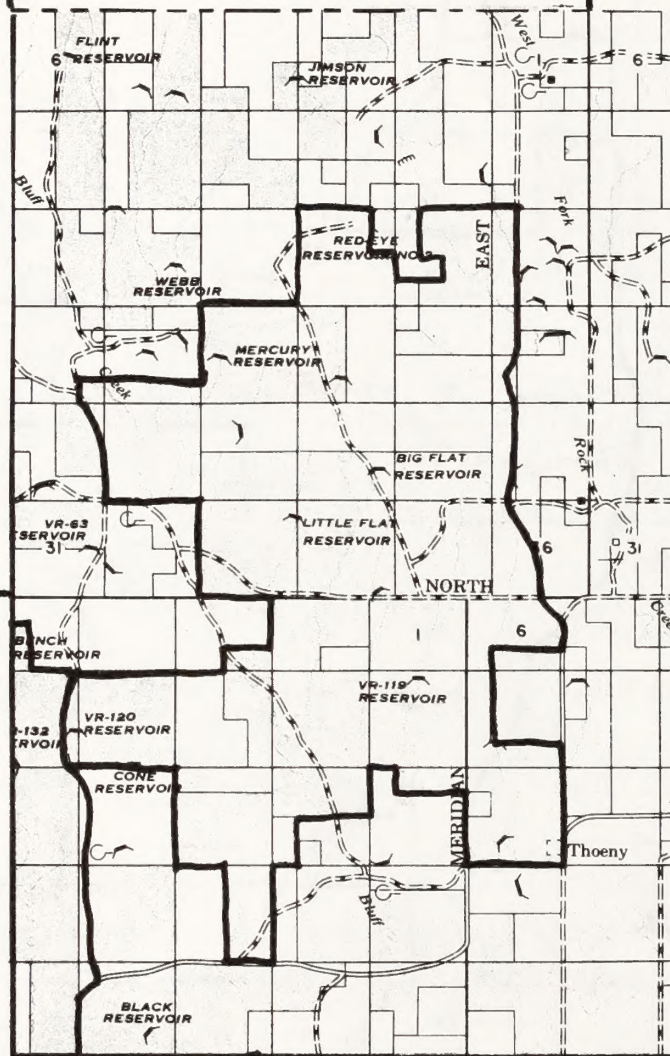
360

R-36 E

L-360-D

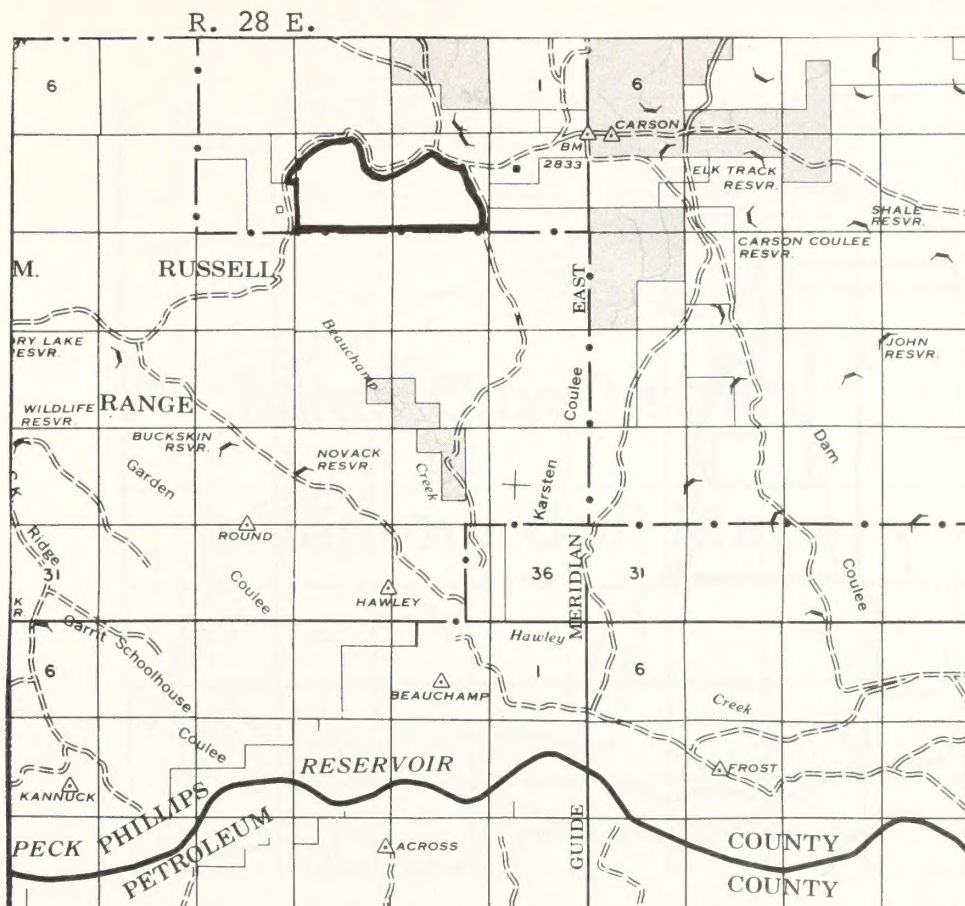
γ^N

T-36N



426

L-361-D

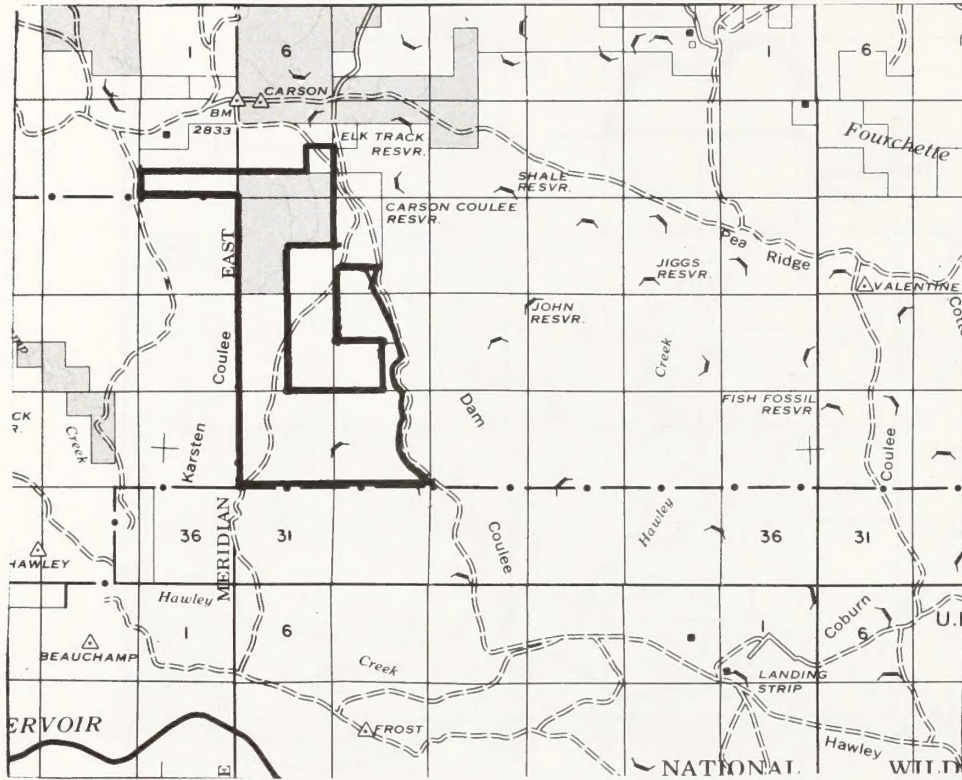


L-365-D

Beauchamp Unit - Tack On #366

R. 28 E.

R. 29 E.



T. 22 N.

L-366-D

Miles City District Inventory Unit Maps



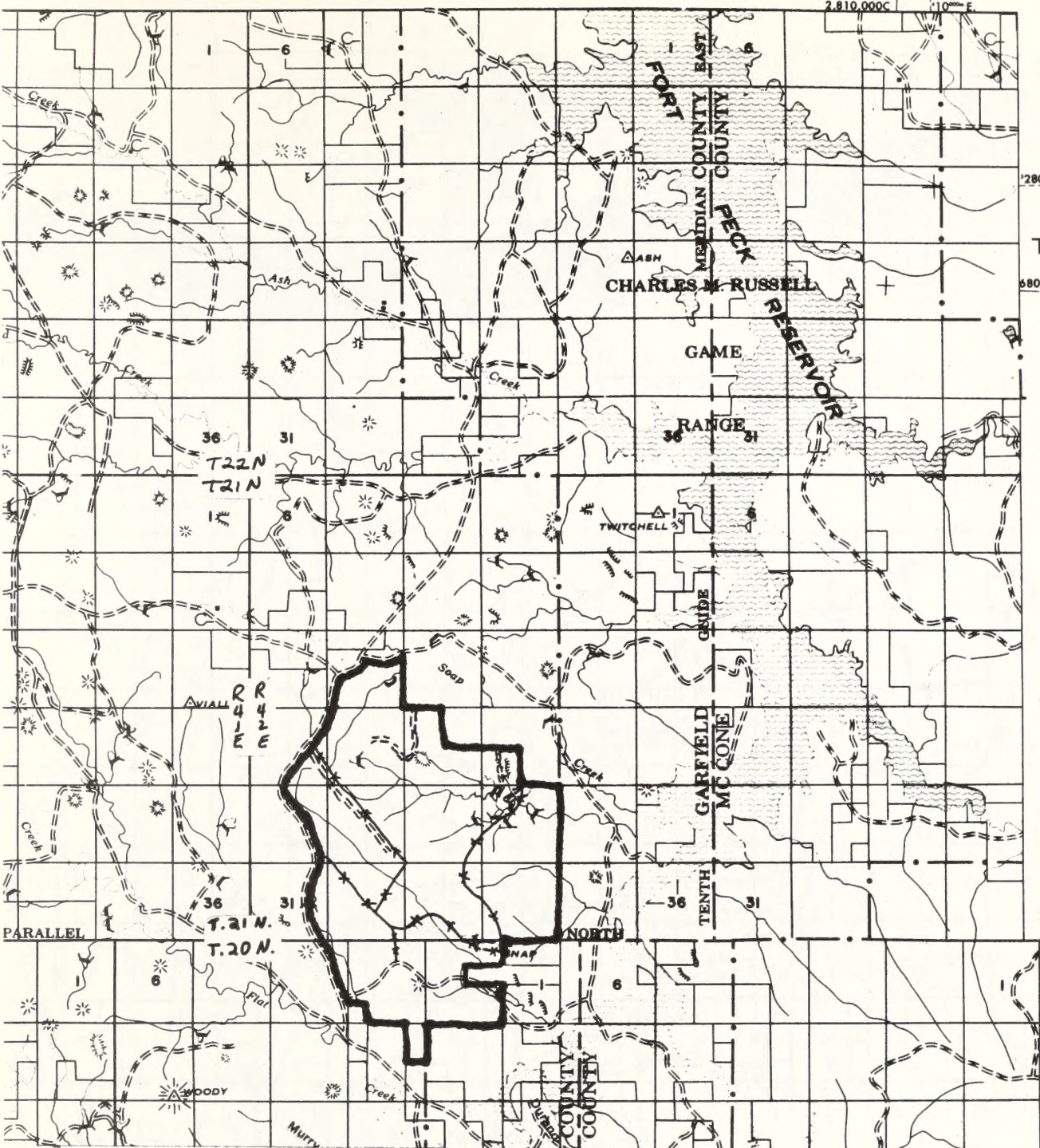
PARAI

41 E.

R. 42 E.

R. 43 E.

(PLANIMETRIC)



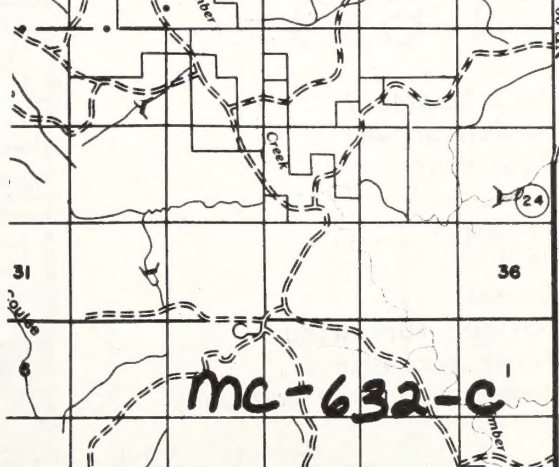
T. 22 N.

T. 21 N.

T. 20 N.

MT-024-632

- Unit boundary
- Vehicular way
- Reservoir
- Fence
- Windmill
- Well
- Corral
- Contour furrowing
- Water spreader
- Recommended new boundary



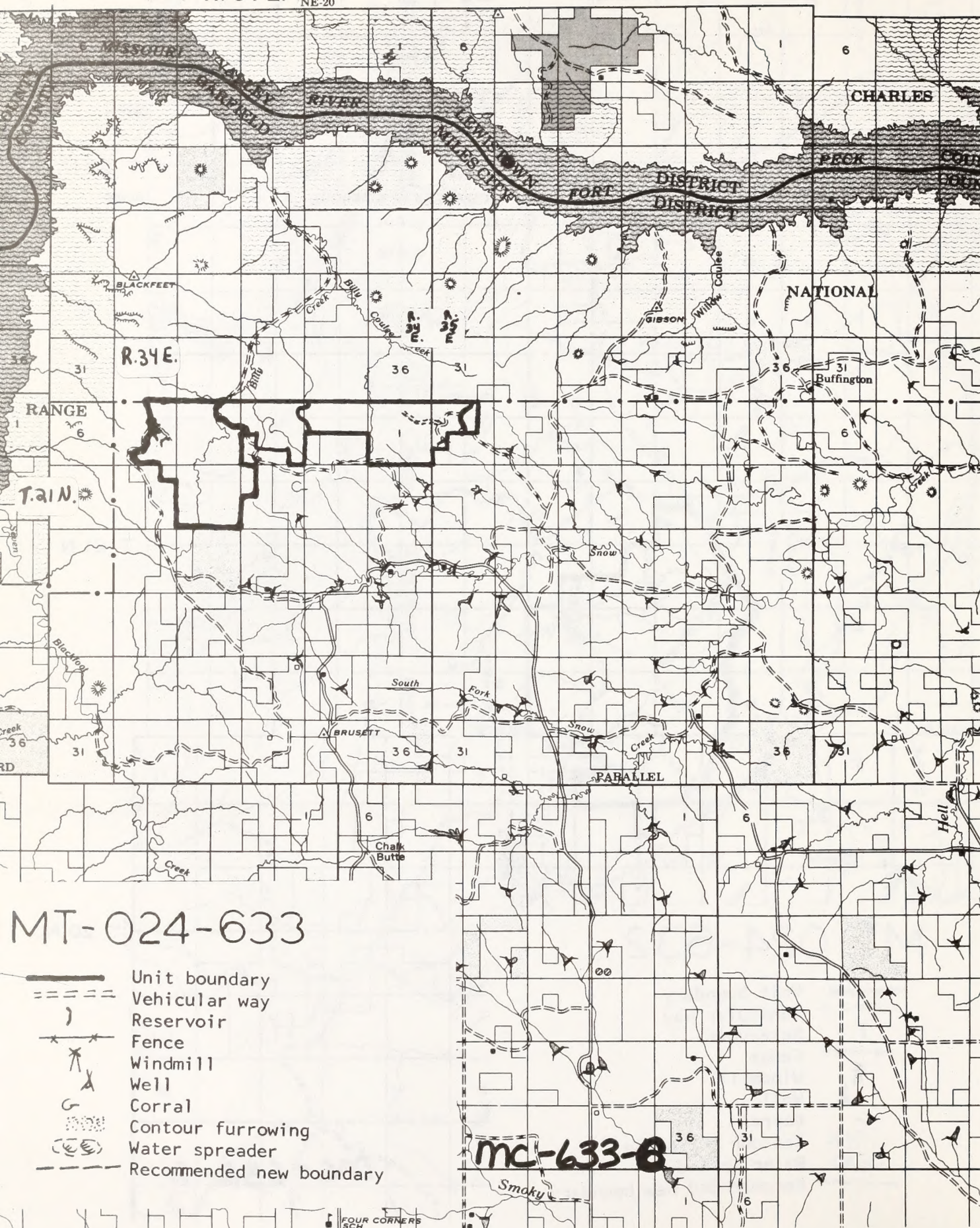
MC-632-C

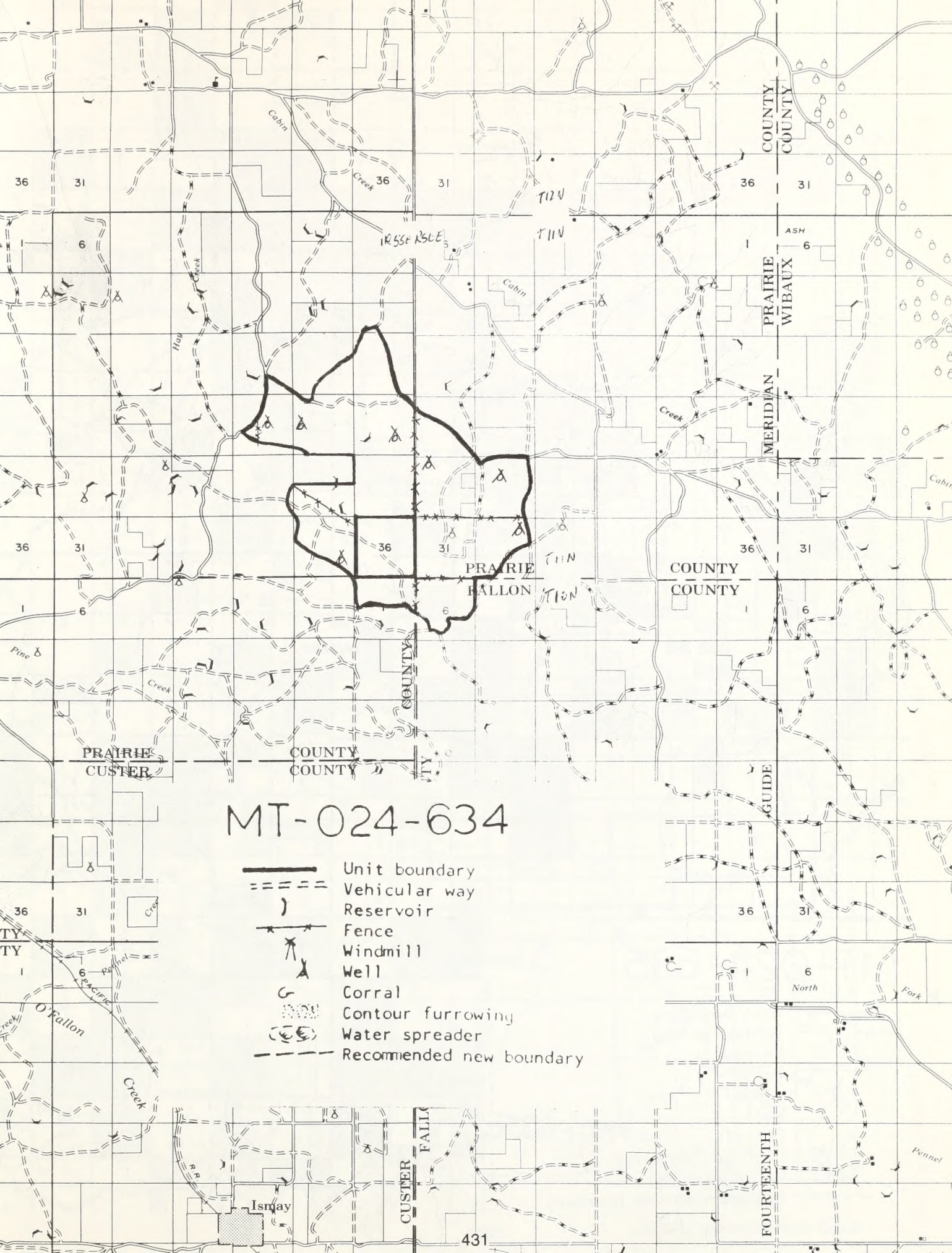
MONTANA

R. 34 E. NE-20

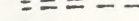
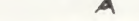
R. 35 E.

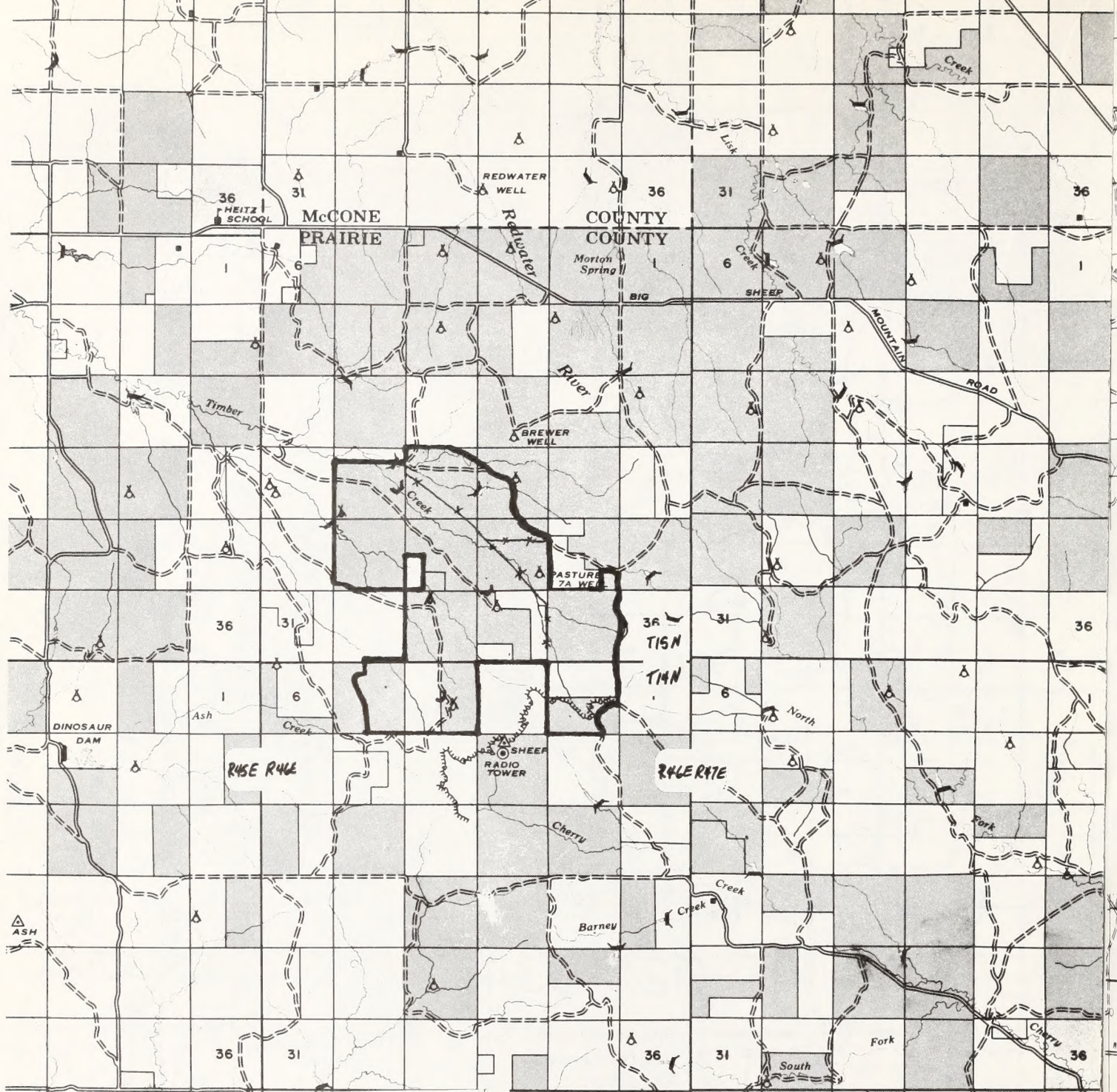
R





MT-024-634

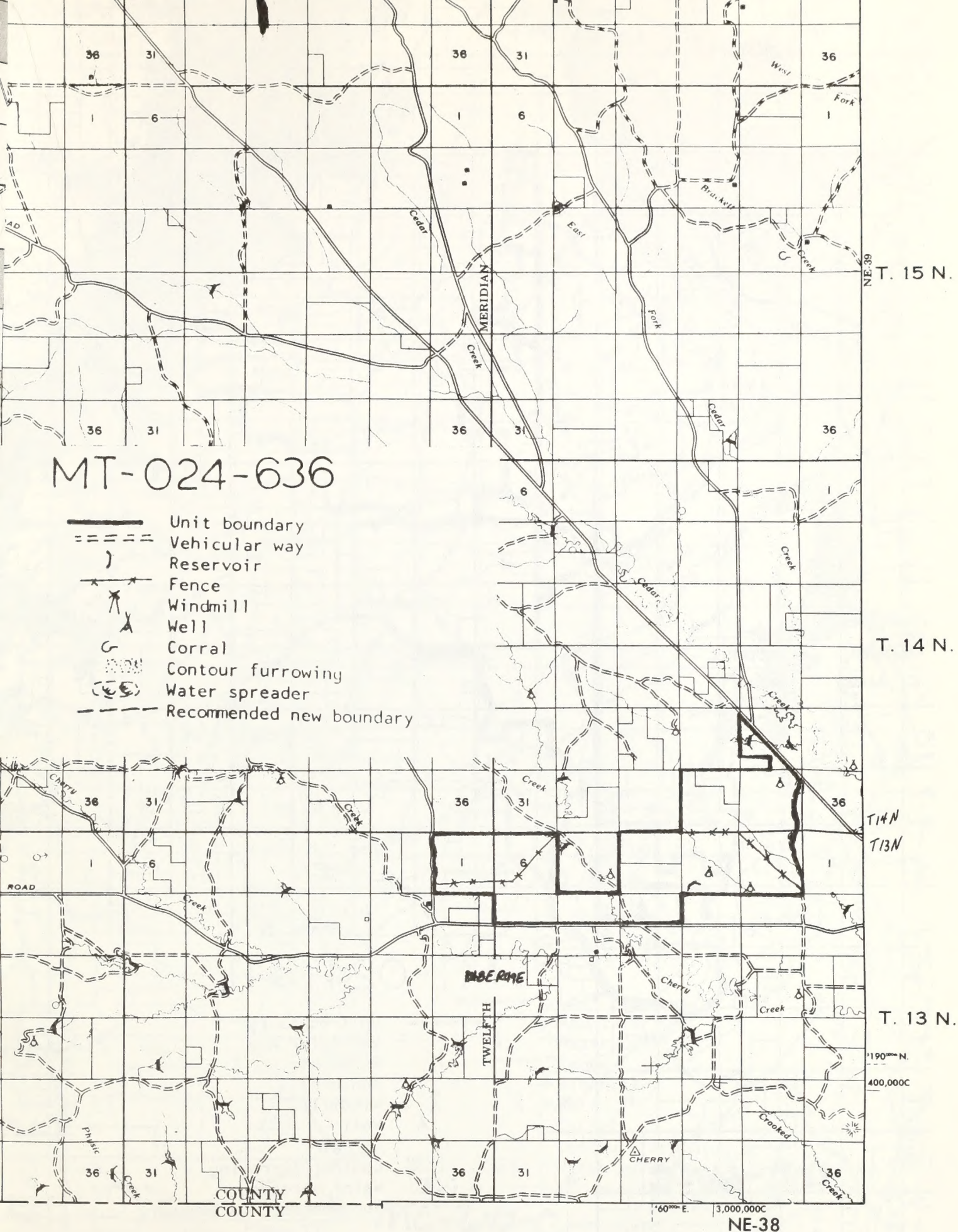
-  Unit boundary
-  Vehicular way
-  Reservoir
-  Fence
-  Windmill
-  Well
-  Corral
-  Contour furrowing
-  Water spreader
-  Recommended new boundary

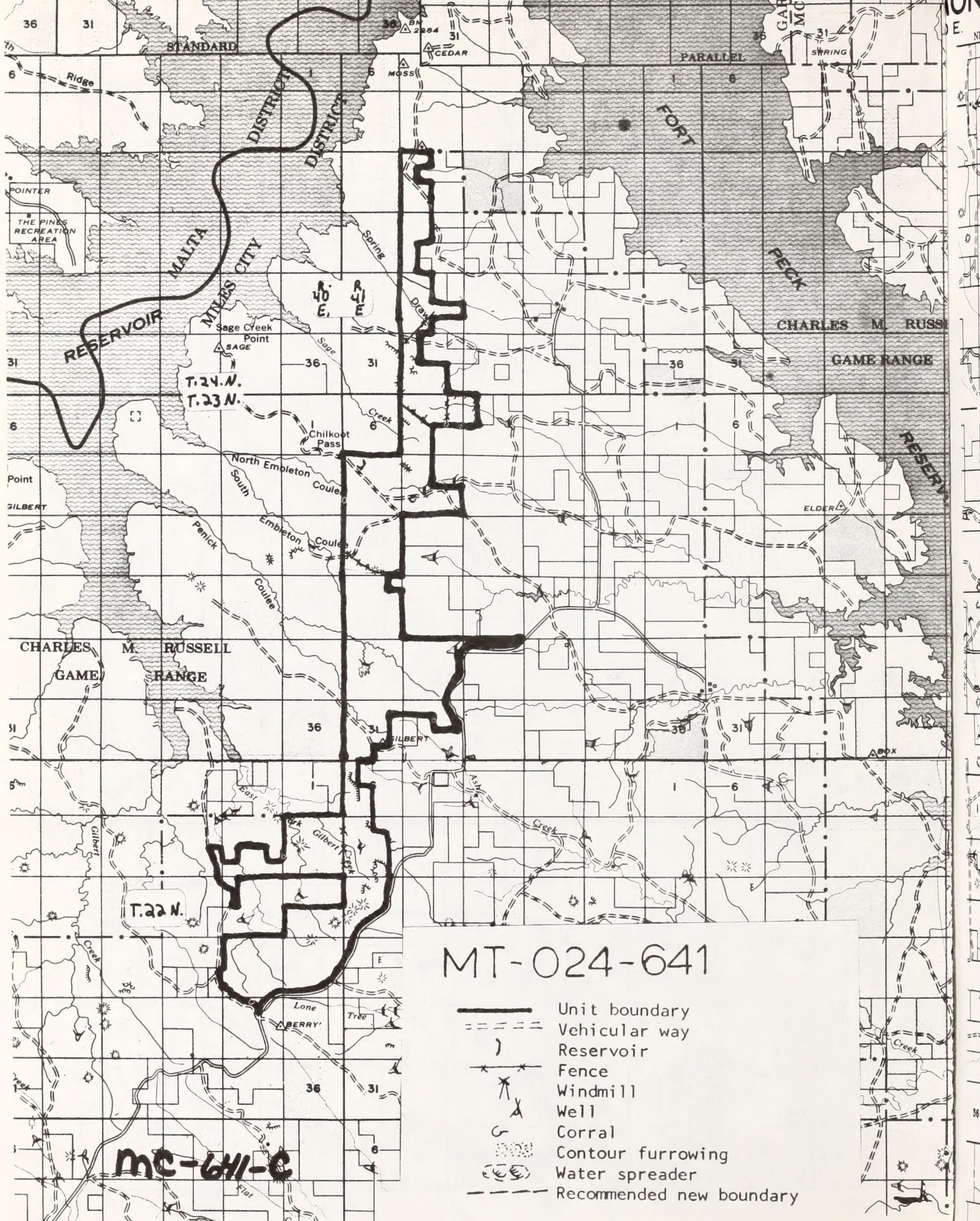


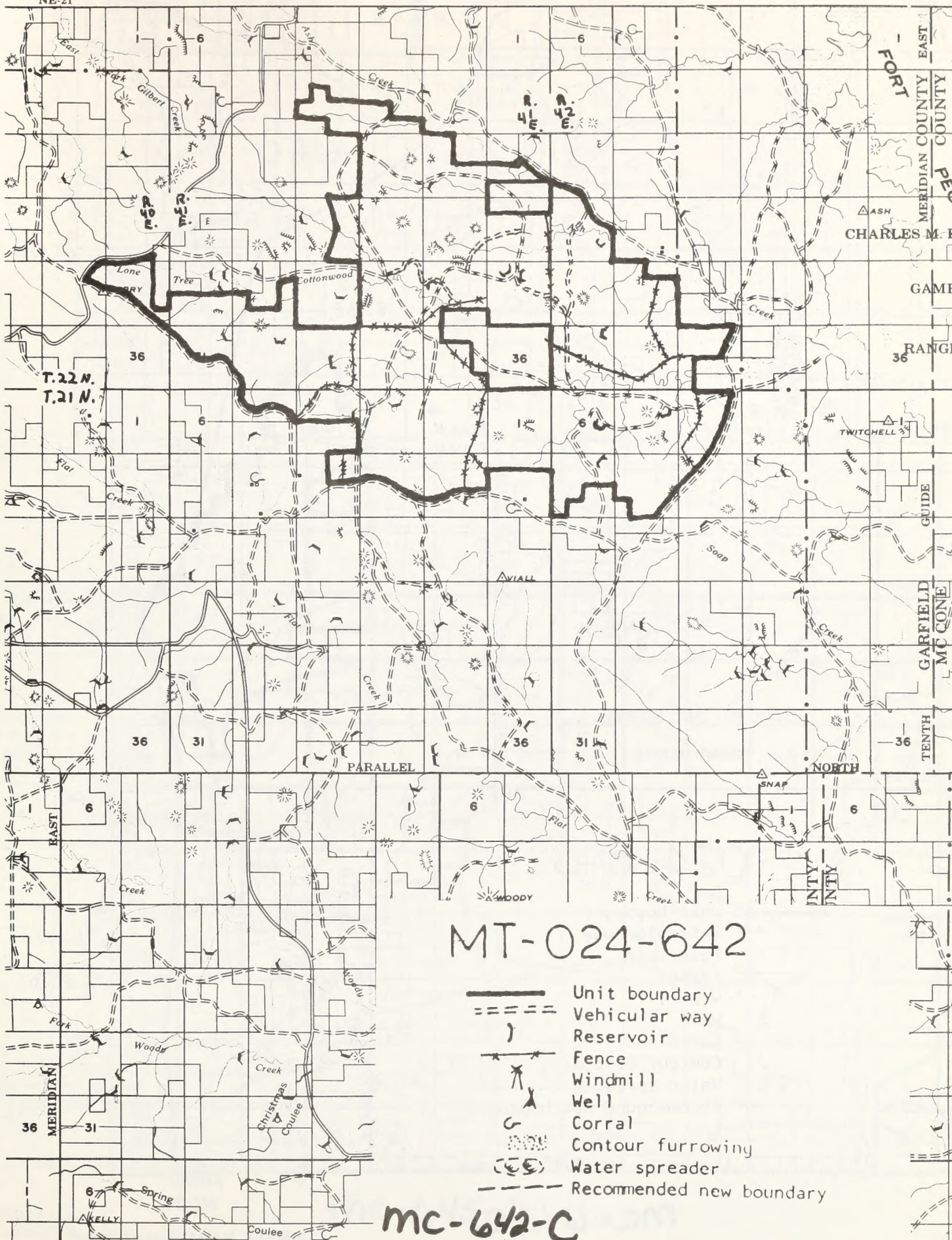
MT-024-635

- Unit boundary
- Vehicular way
- Reservoir
- Fence
- Windmill
- Well
- Corral
- Contour furrowing
- Water spreader
- Recommended new boundary

mc-635c



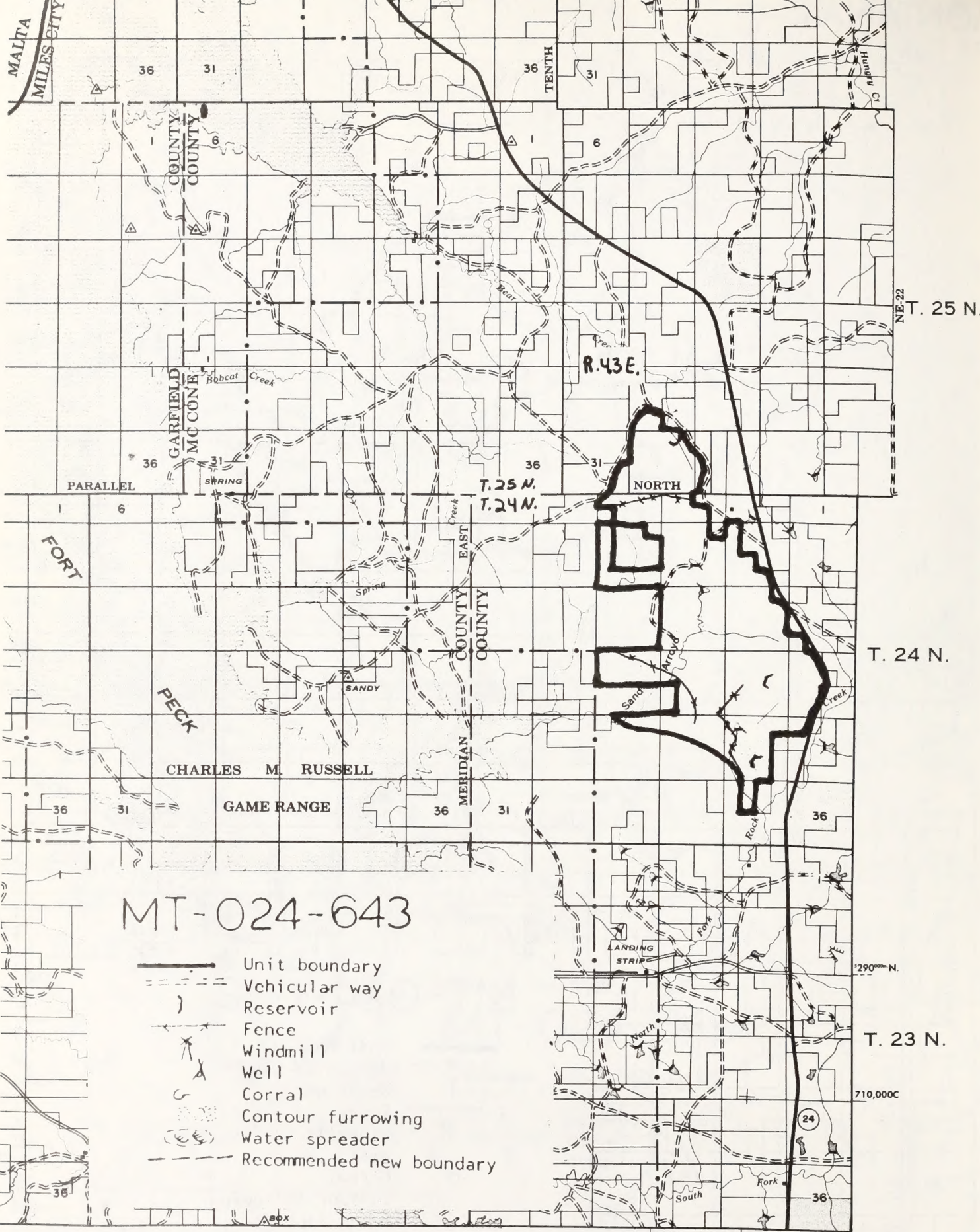




MT-024-642

- Unit boundary
- Vehicular way
- Reservoir
- Fence
- Windmill
- Well
- Corral
- Contour furrowing
- Water spreader
- Recommended new boundary

mc-642-C



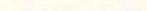
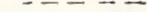
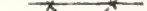
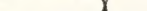
MT-024-643

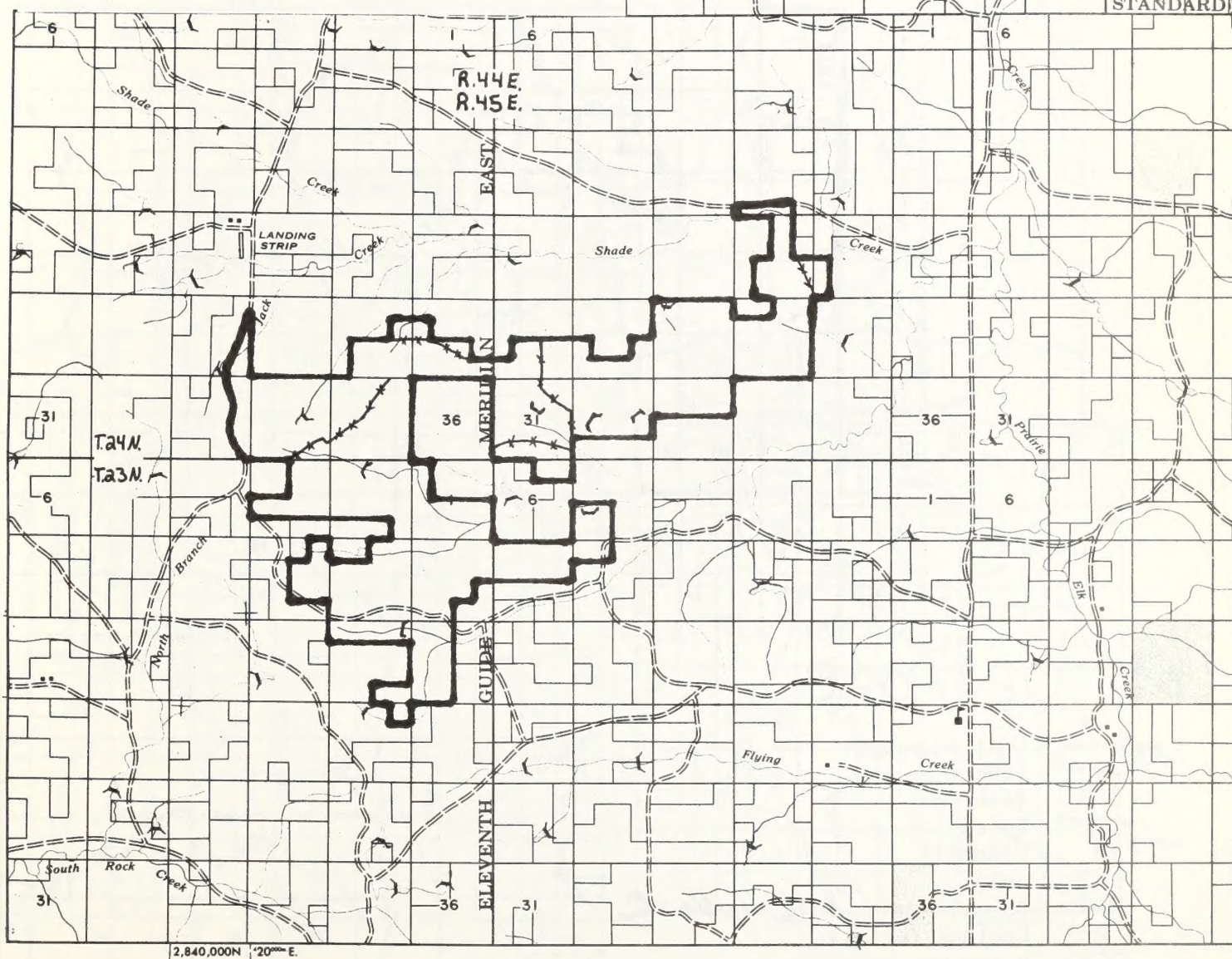
- Unit boundary
- Vehicular way
- Reservoir
- Fence
- Windmill
- Well
- Corral
- Contour furrowing
- Water spreader
- Recommended new boundary

mc-643-C

NE-21
SURFACE MANAGEMENT QUAD

MT-024-645

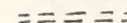
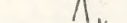
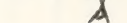
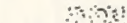
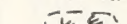
-  Unit boundary
-  Vehicular way
-  Reservoir
-  Fence
-  Windmill
-  Well
-  Corral
-  Contour furrowing
-  Water spreader
-  Recommended new boundary

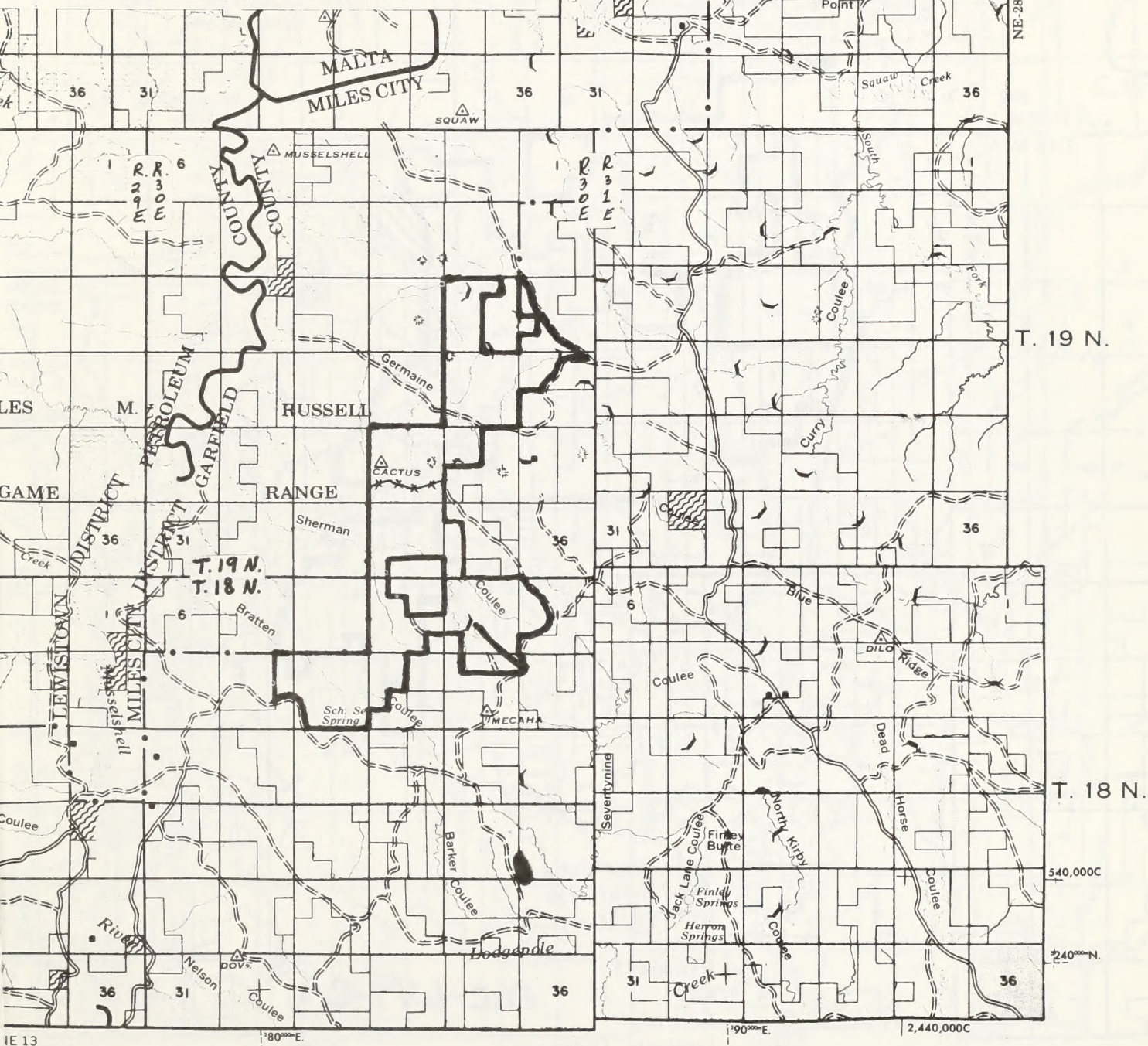


SCALE 1:126,720
 1/2 INCH = 1 MILE SERIES

mc-645-C

MT-024-648

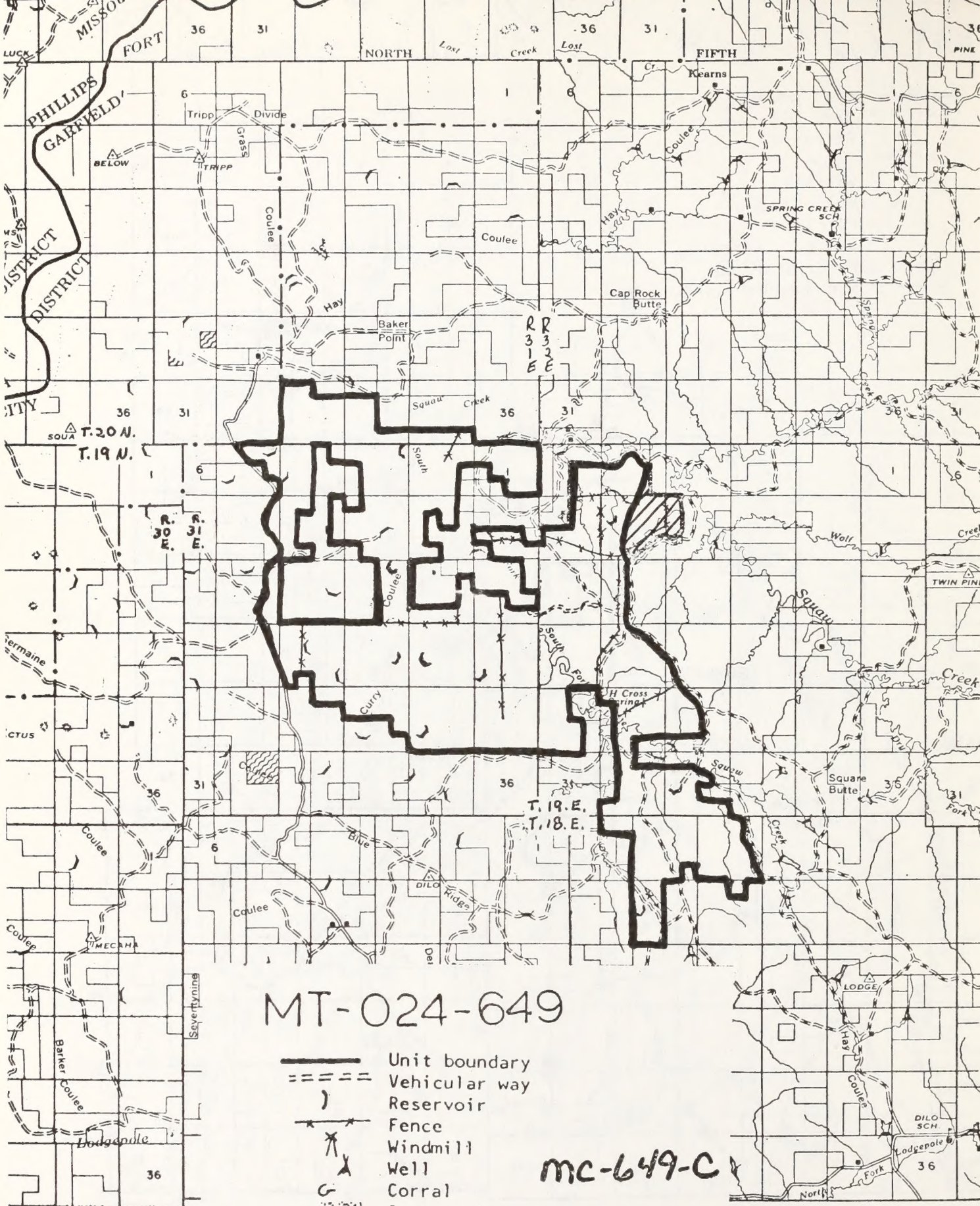
-  Unit boundary
-  Vehicular way
-  Reservoir
-  Fence
-  Windmill
-  Well
-  Corral
-  Contour furrowing
-  Water spreader
-  Recommended new boundary



MC-648-C

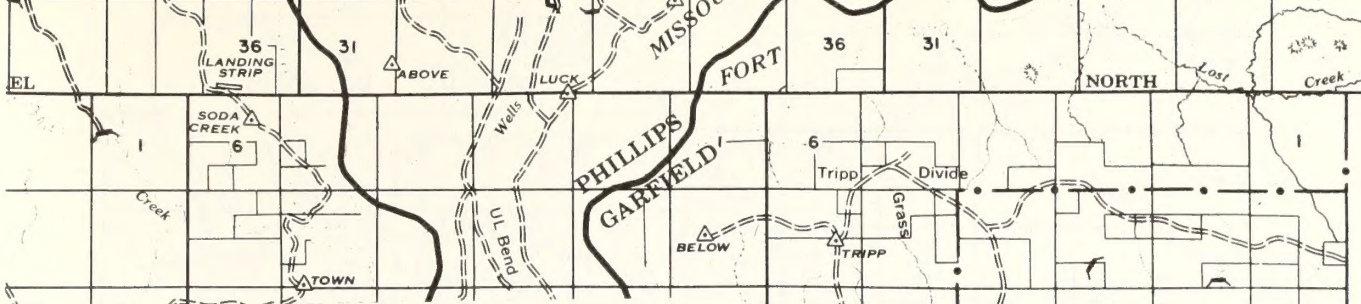
NE-27

SURFACE MANAGEMENT QUAD



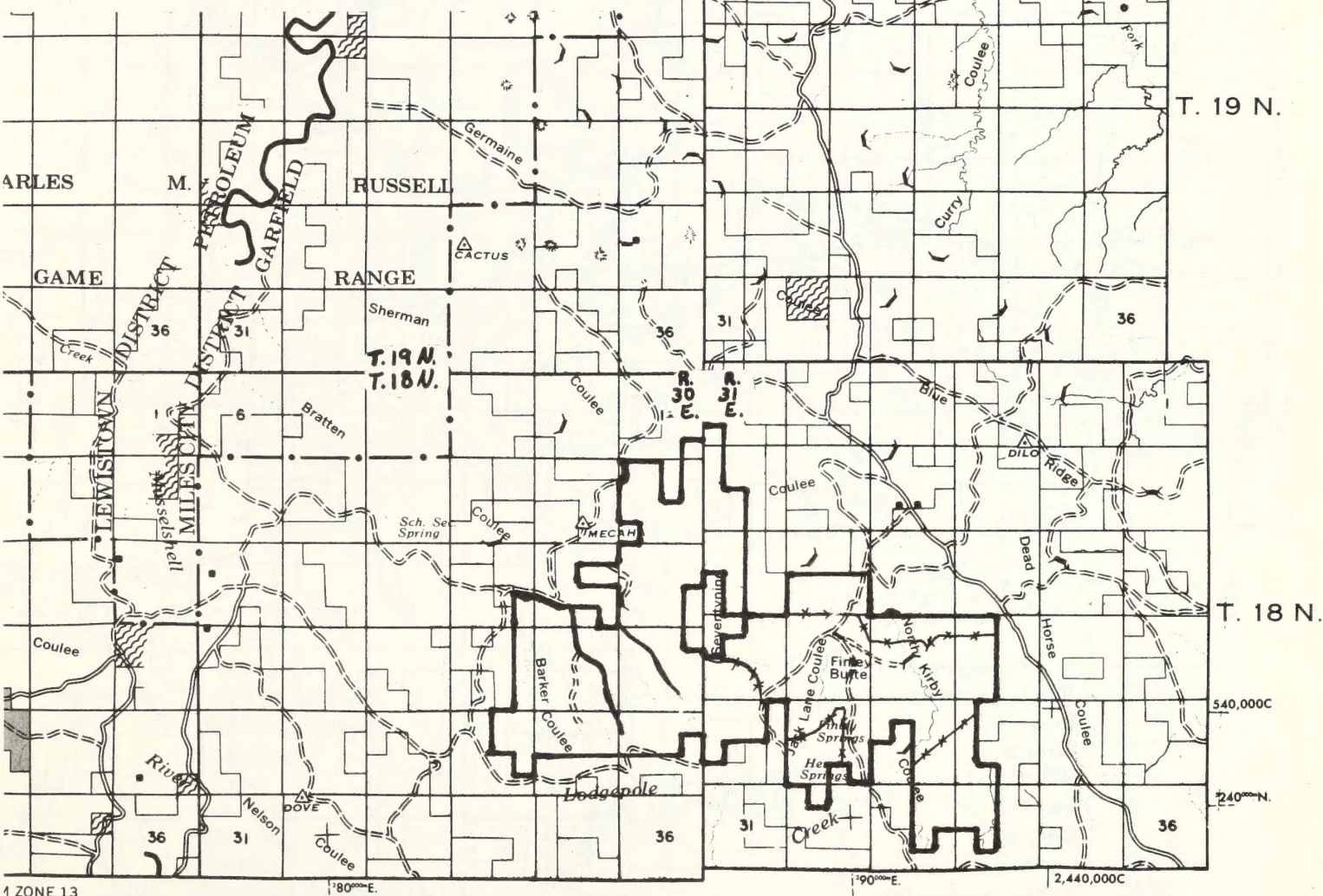
MT-024-649

- Unit boundary
- Vehicular way
- Reservoir
- Fence
- Windmill
- Well
- Corral
- Contour furrowing
- Water spreader
- Recommended new boundary
- Dropped



MT-024-650

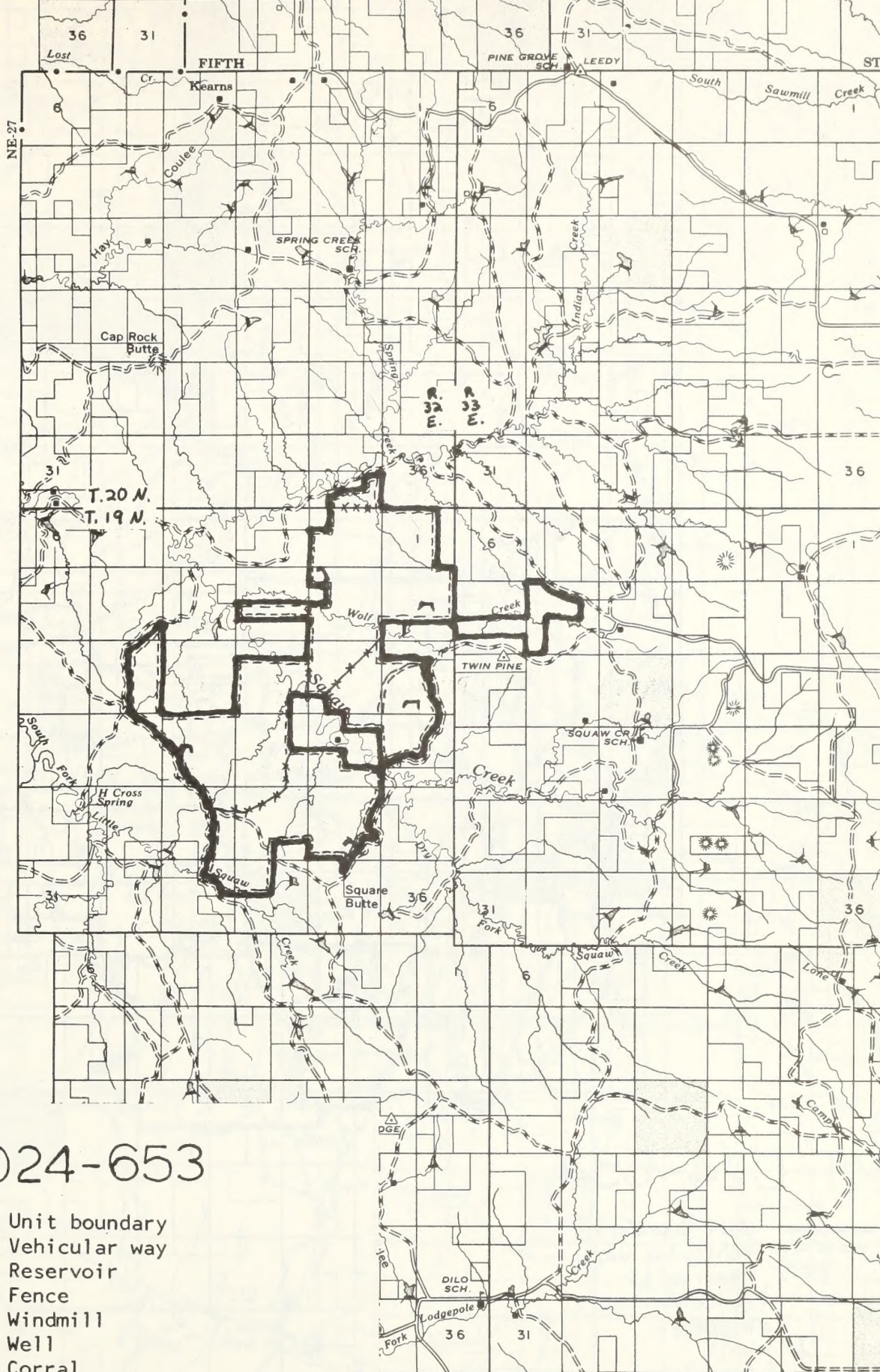
- Unit boundary
- Vehicular way
- Reservoir
- Fence
- Windmill
- Well
- Corral
- Contour furrowing
- Water spreader
- Recommended new boundary



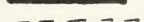
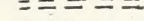
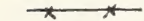
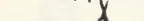
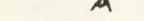
MC-650-C

NE-27

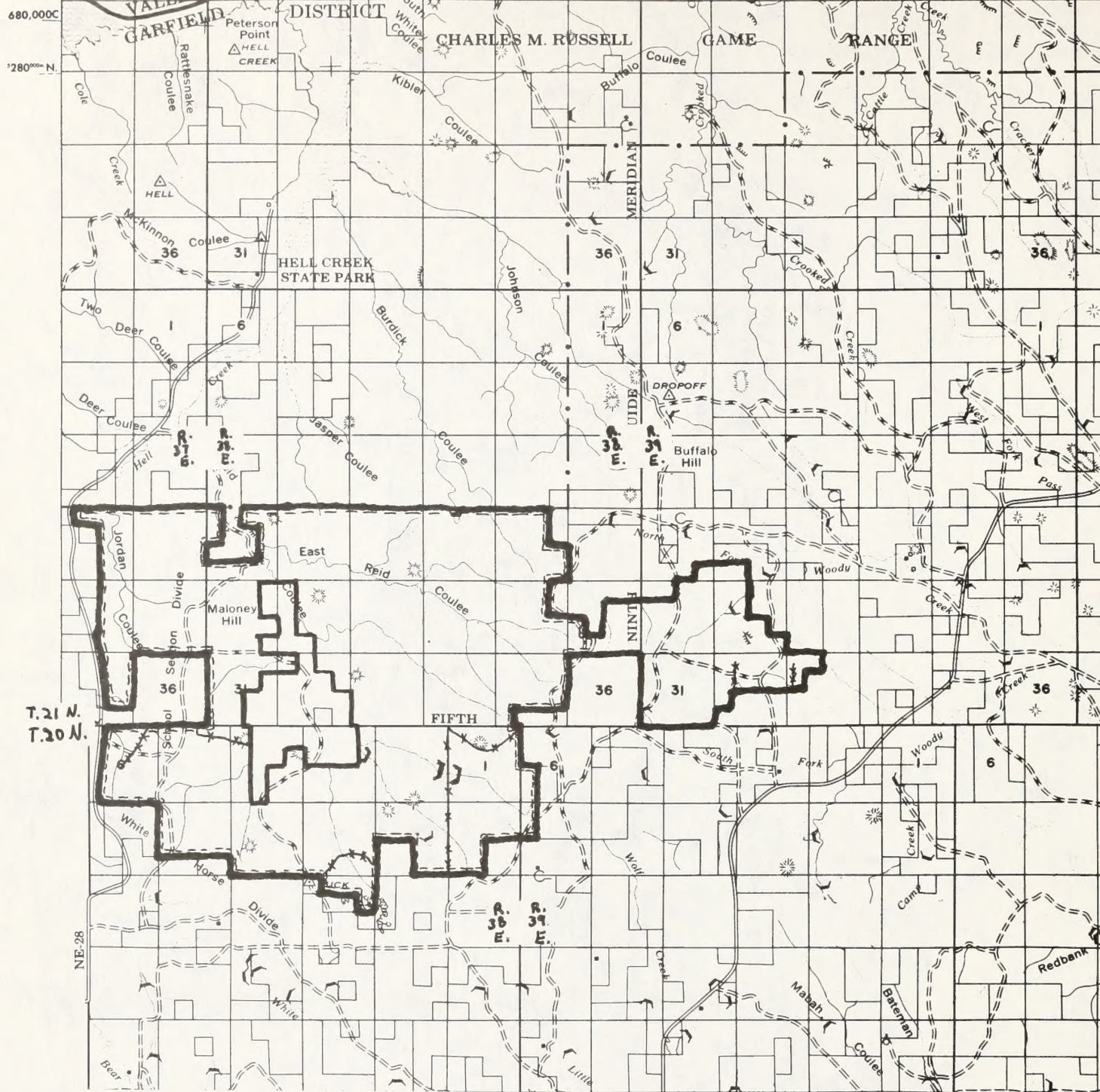
SURFACE MANAGEMENT QUAD



MT-024-653

-  Unit boundary
-  Vehicular way
-  Reservoir
-  Fence
-  Windmill
-  Well
-  Corral
-  Contour furrowing
-  Water spreader
-  Recommended new boundary

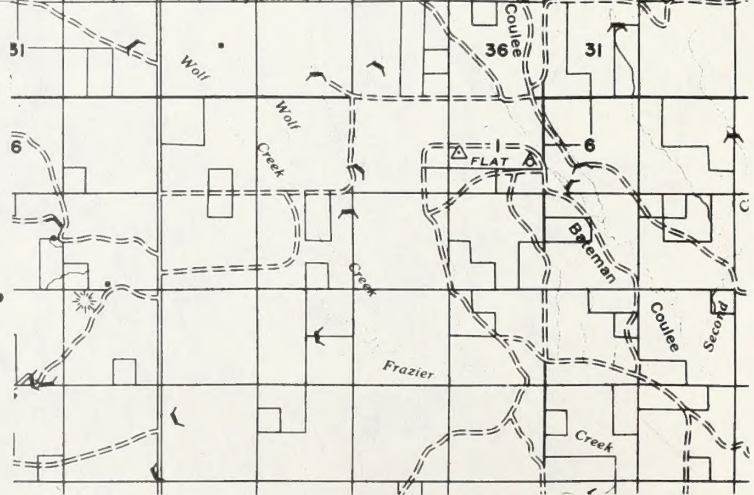
mc-653-c



MT-024-661

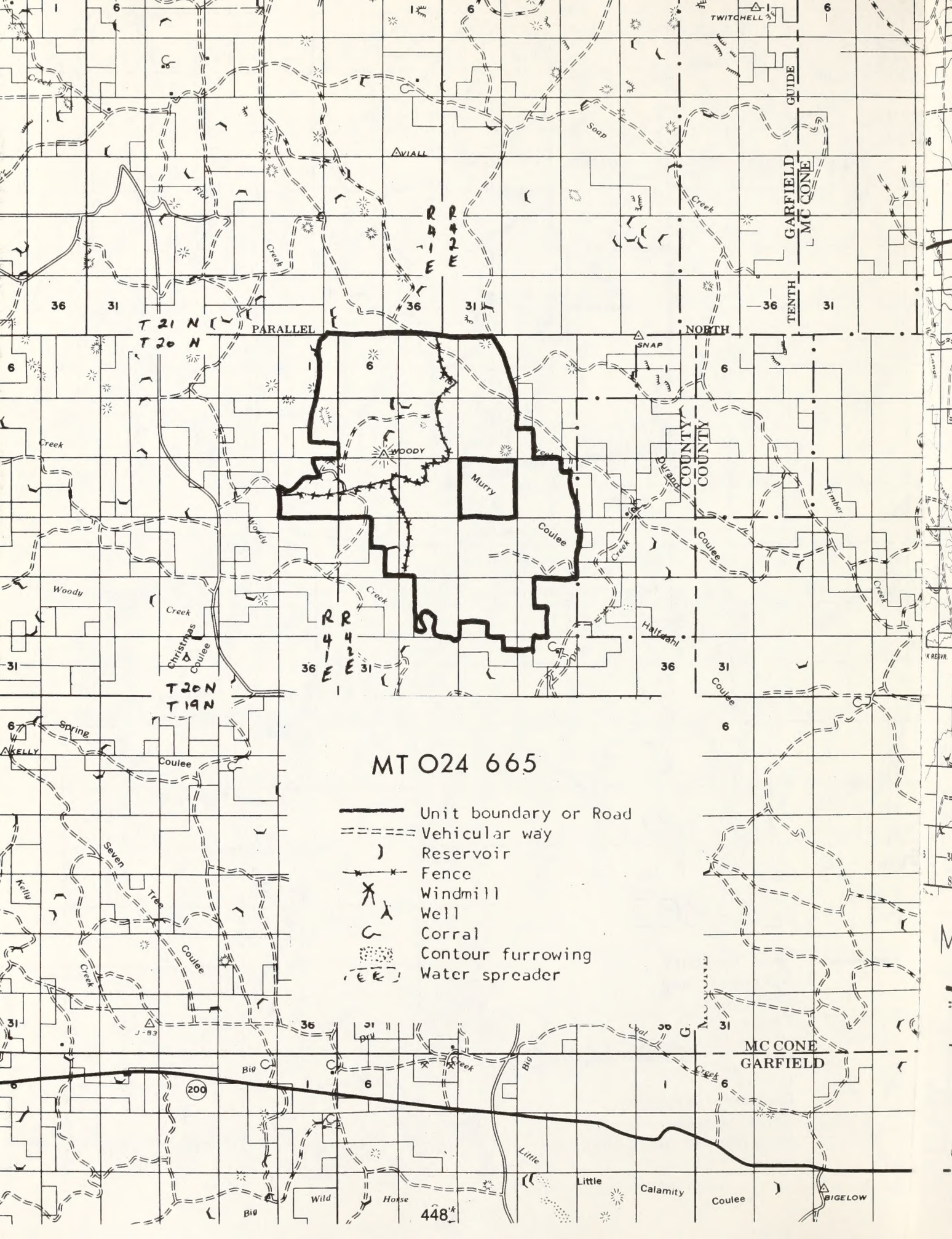
- Unit boundary
- Vehicular way
- Reservoir
- Fence
- Windmill
- Well
- Corral
- Contour furrowing
- Water spreader
- Recommended new boundary

mc-661-C



Unit boundary
Vehicular way
Reservoir
Fence
Windmill
Well
Corral
Contour furrowing
Water spreader
Recommended new boundary

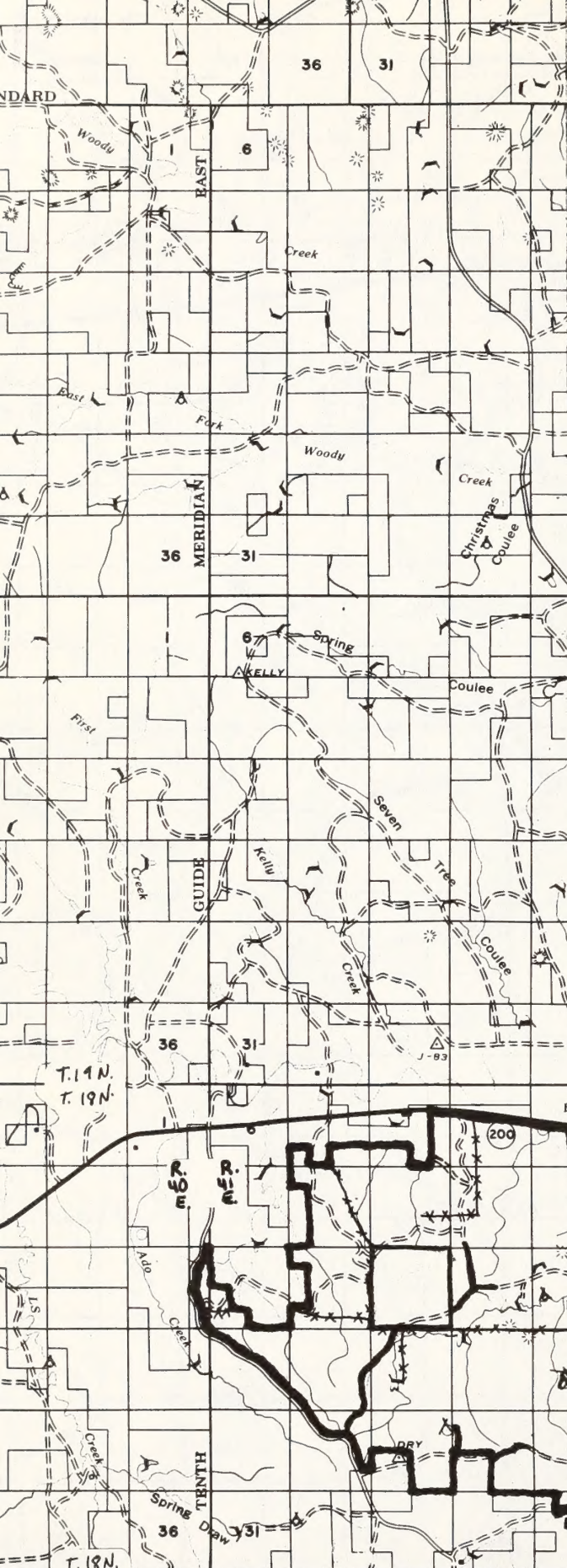
mc-662-C



MT O24 665

- Unit boundary or Road
- Vehicular way
- Reservoir
- Fence
- Windmill
- Well
- Corral
- Contour furrowing
- Water spreader

MC CONE
GARFIELD

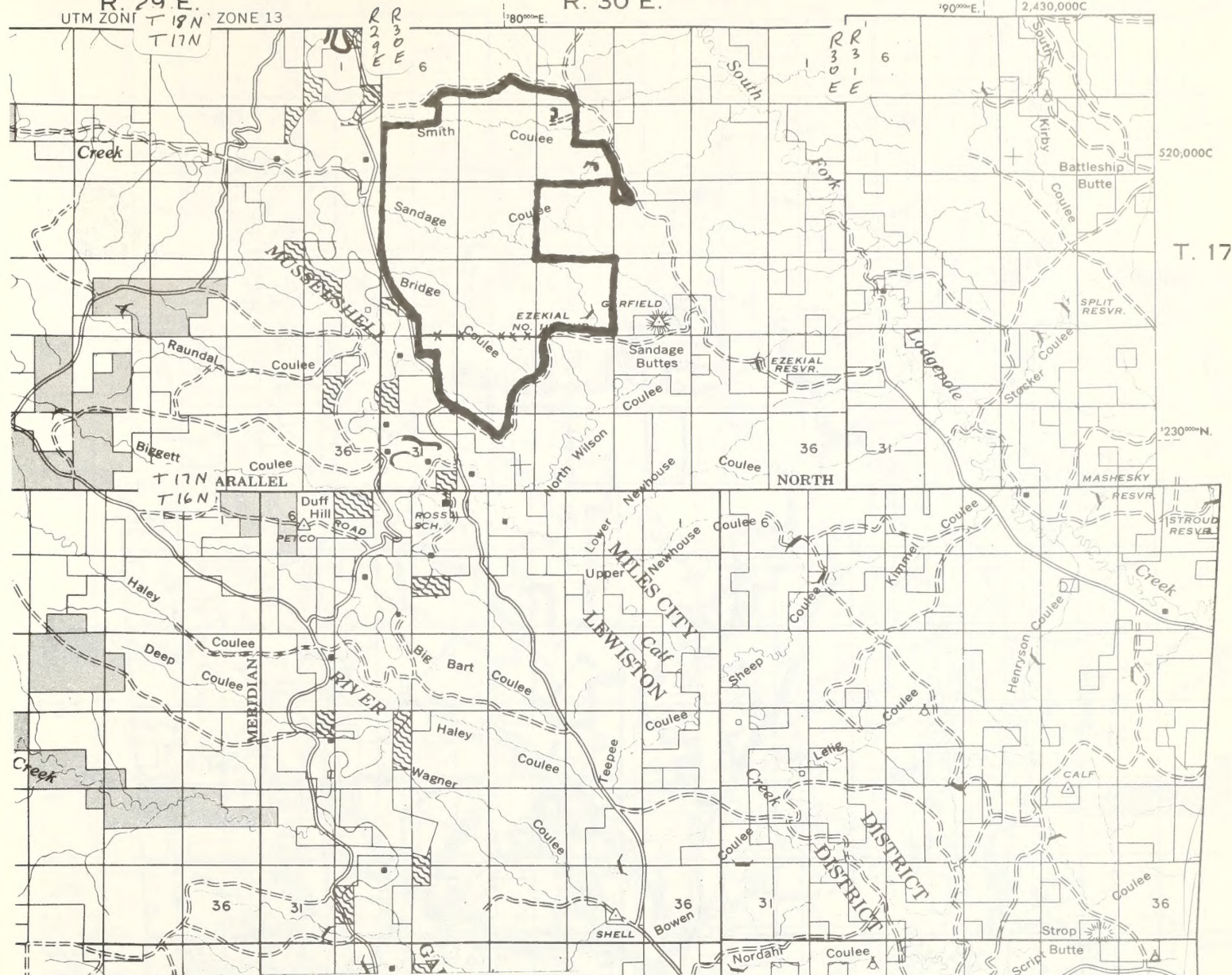


MT-024-672

- Unit boundary
- Vehicular way
- Reservoir
- Fence
- Windmill
- Well
- Corral
- Contour furrowing
- Water spreader
- Recommended new boundary

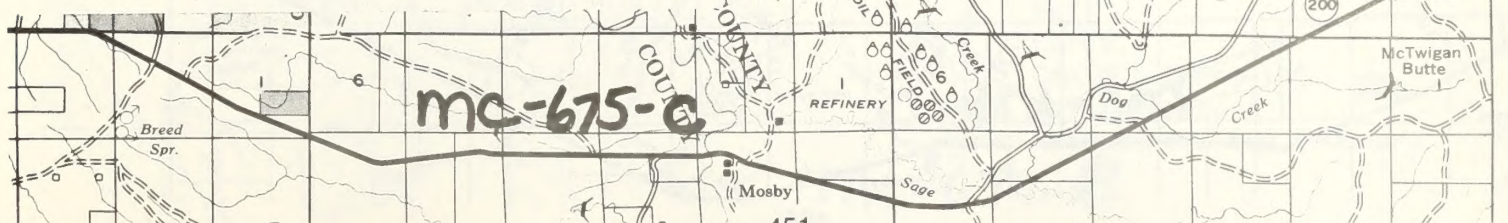
MC-672-C

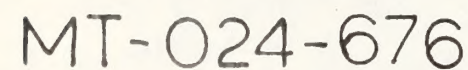
R. 31 E.	
290,000 E.	2,430,000 C.



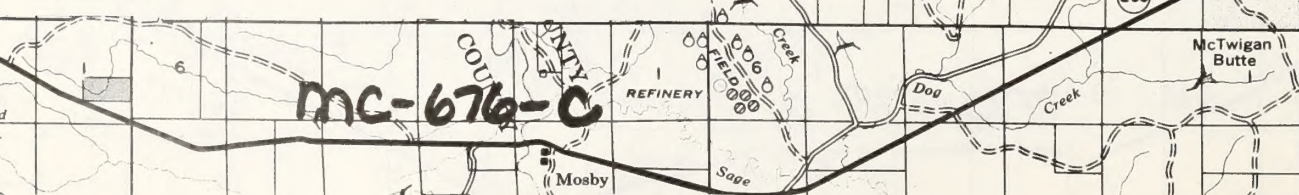
MT-024-675

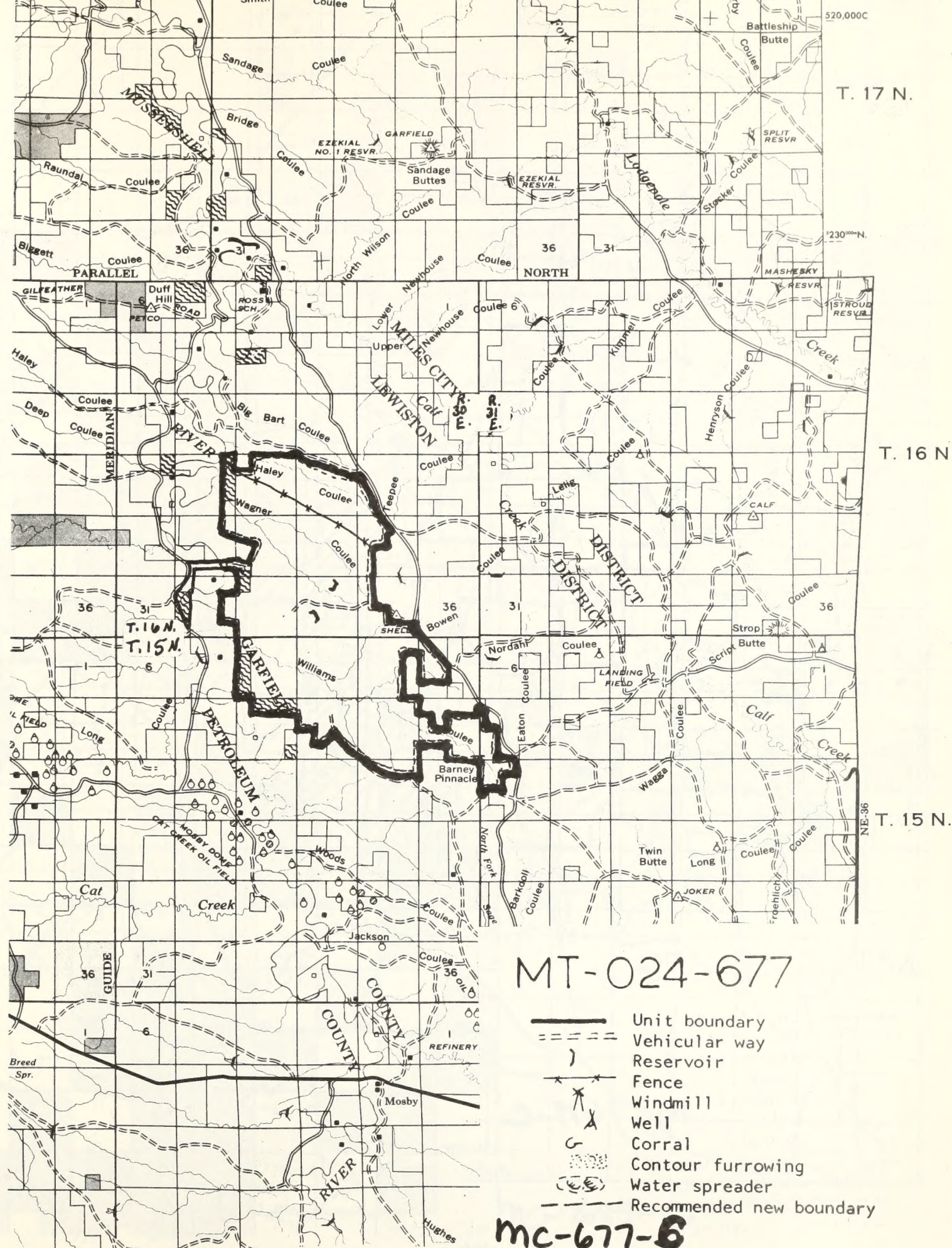
- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
|  | Unit boundary |
|  | Vehicular way |
|  | Reservoir |
|  | Fence |
|  | Windmill |
|  | Well |
|  | Corral |
|  | Contour furrowing |
|  | Water spreader |
|  | Recommended new boundary |

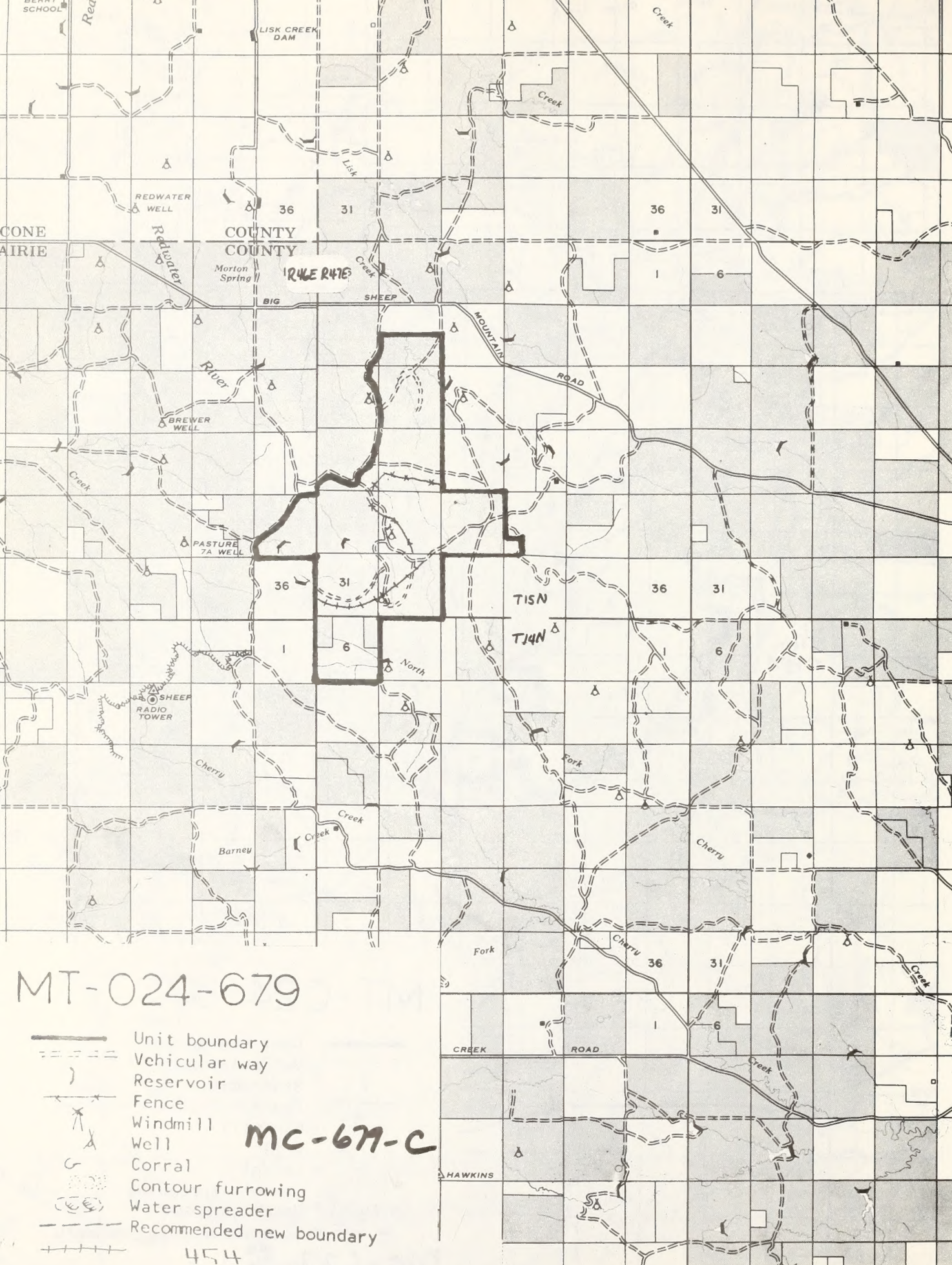




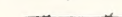
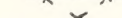
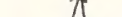
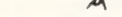
- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
|  | Unit boundary |
|  | Vehicular way |
|  | Reservoir |
|  | Fence |
|  | Windmill |
|  | Well |
|  | Corral |
|  | Contour furrowing |
|  | Water spreader |
|  | Recommended new boundary |

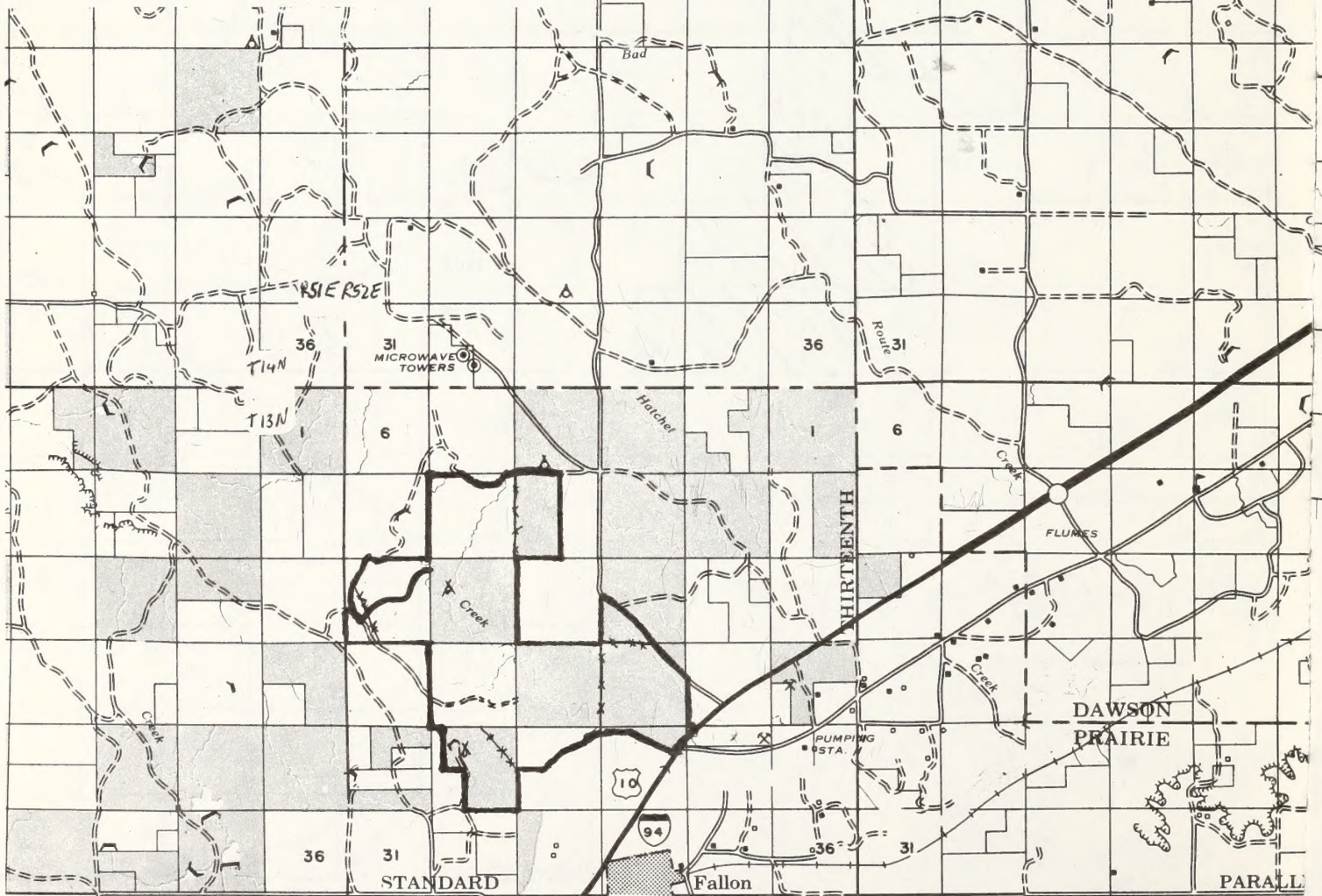




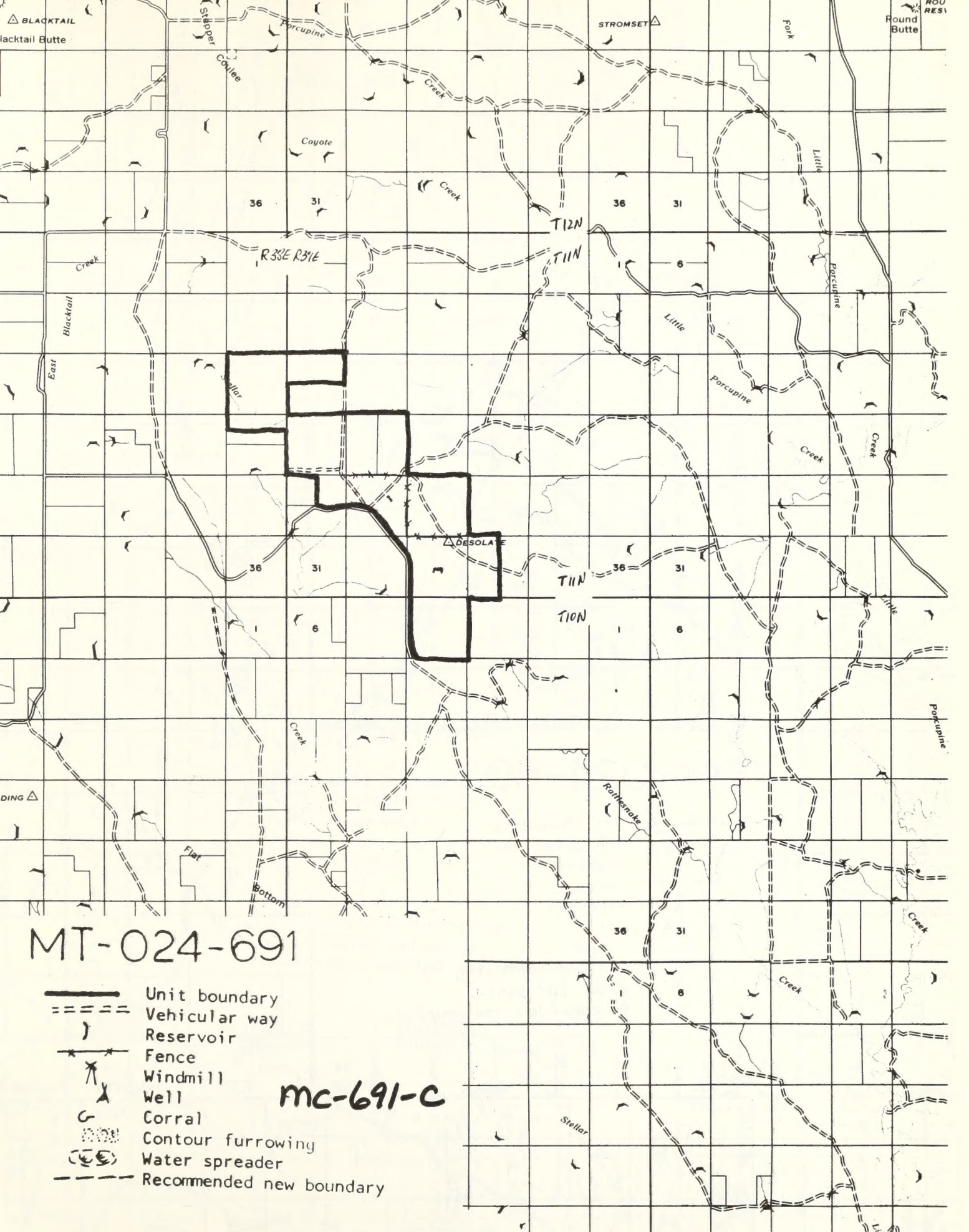


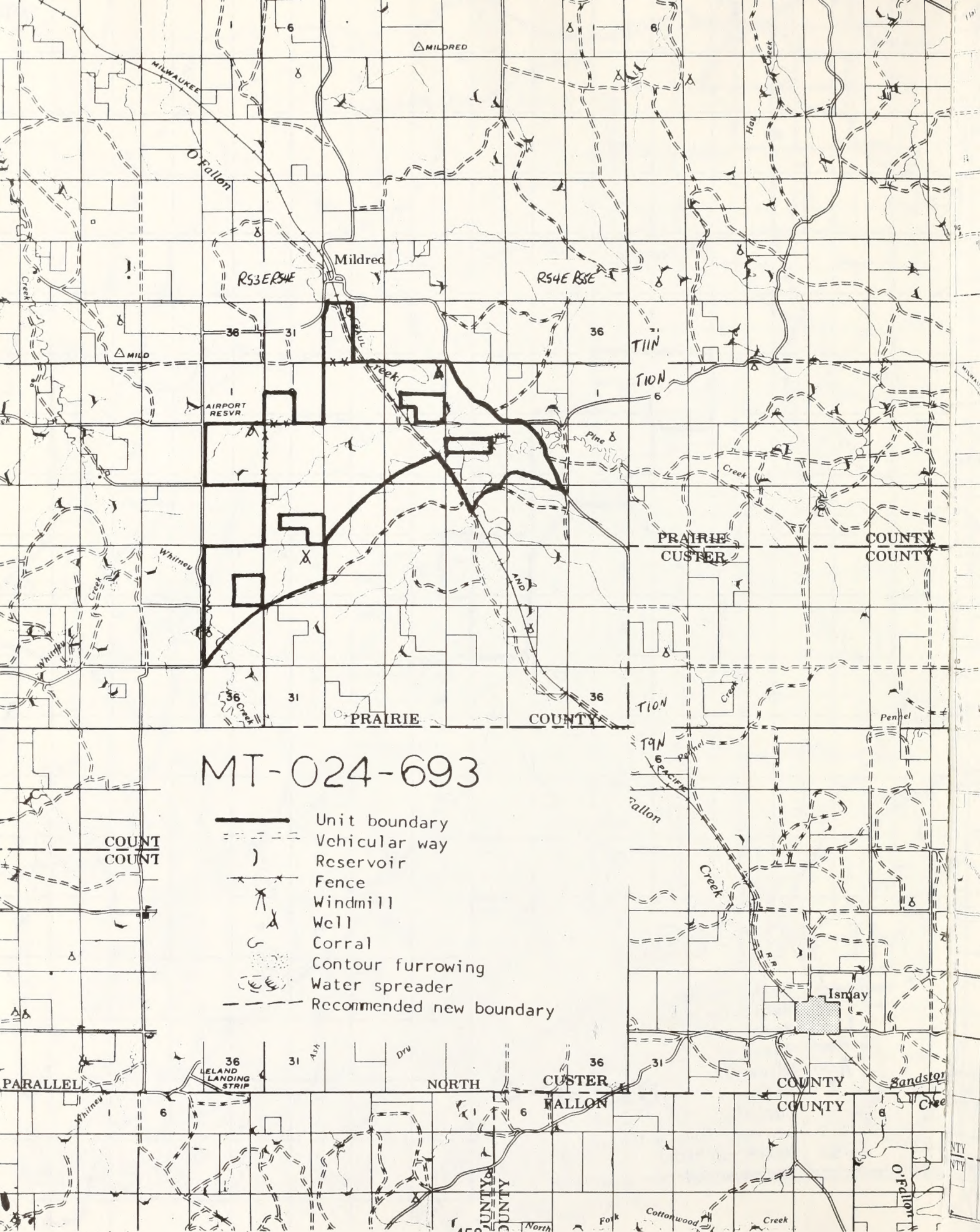
MT-024-688

-  Unit boundary
-  Vehicular way
-  Reservoir
-  Fence
-  Windmill
-  Well
-  Corral
-  Contour furrowing
-  Water spreader
-  Recommended new boundary



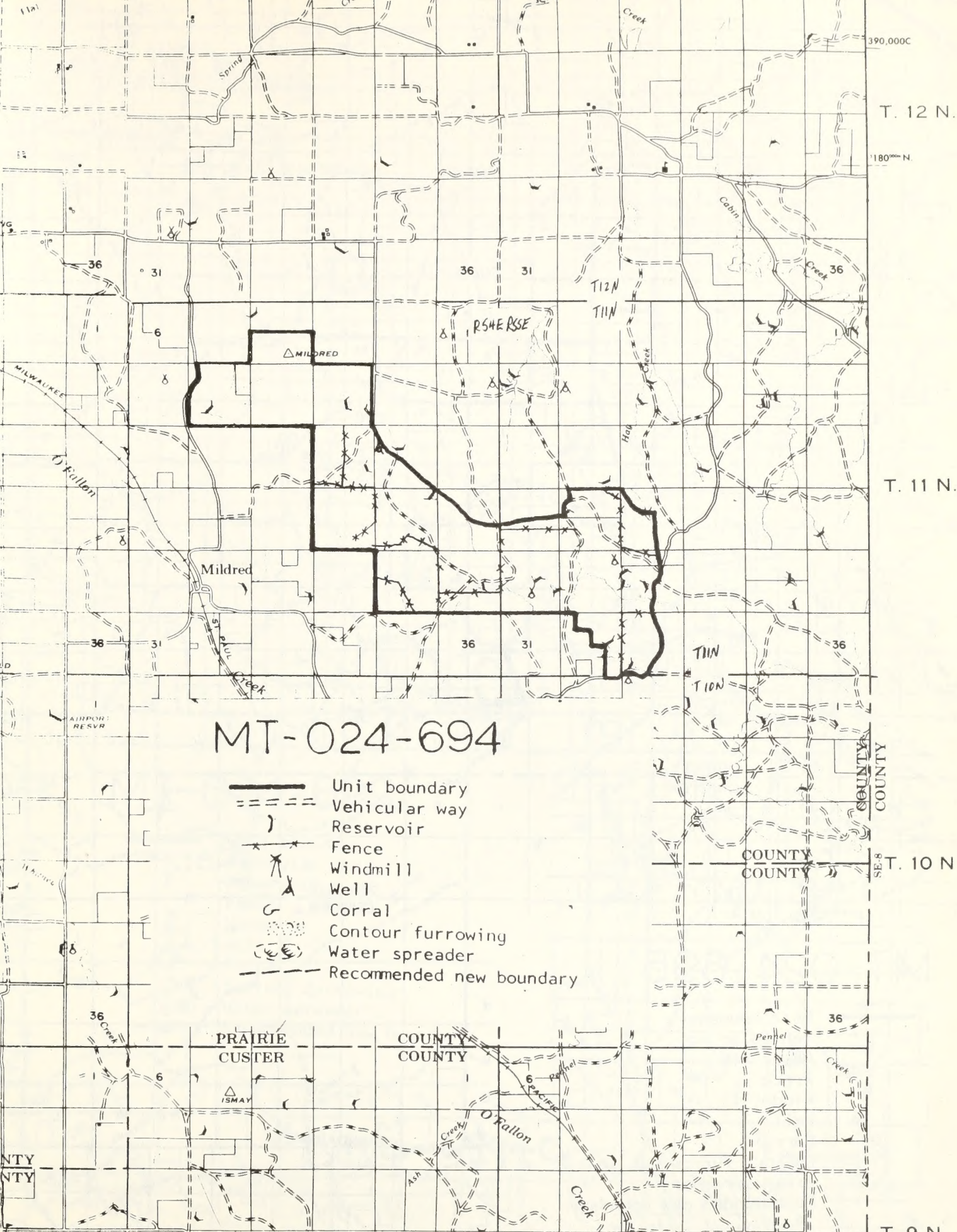
mc-688-c SE-7 NOV. 1974



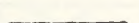
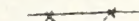
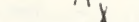
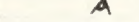


MT-024-693

- Unit boundary
- Vehicular way
- Reservoir
- Fence
- Windmill
- Well
- Corral
- Contour furrowing
- Water spreader
- Recommended new boundary

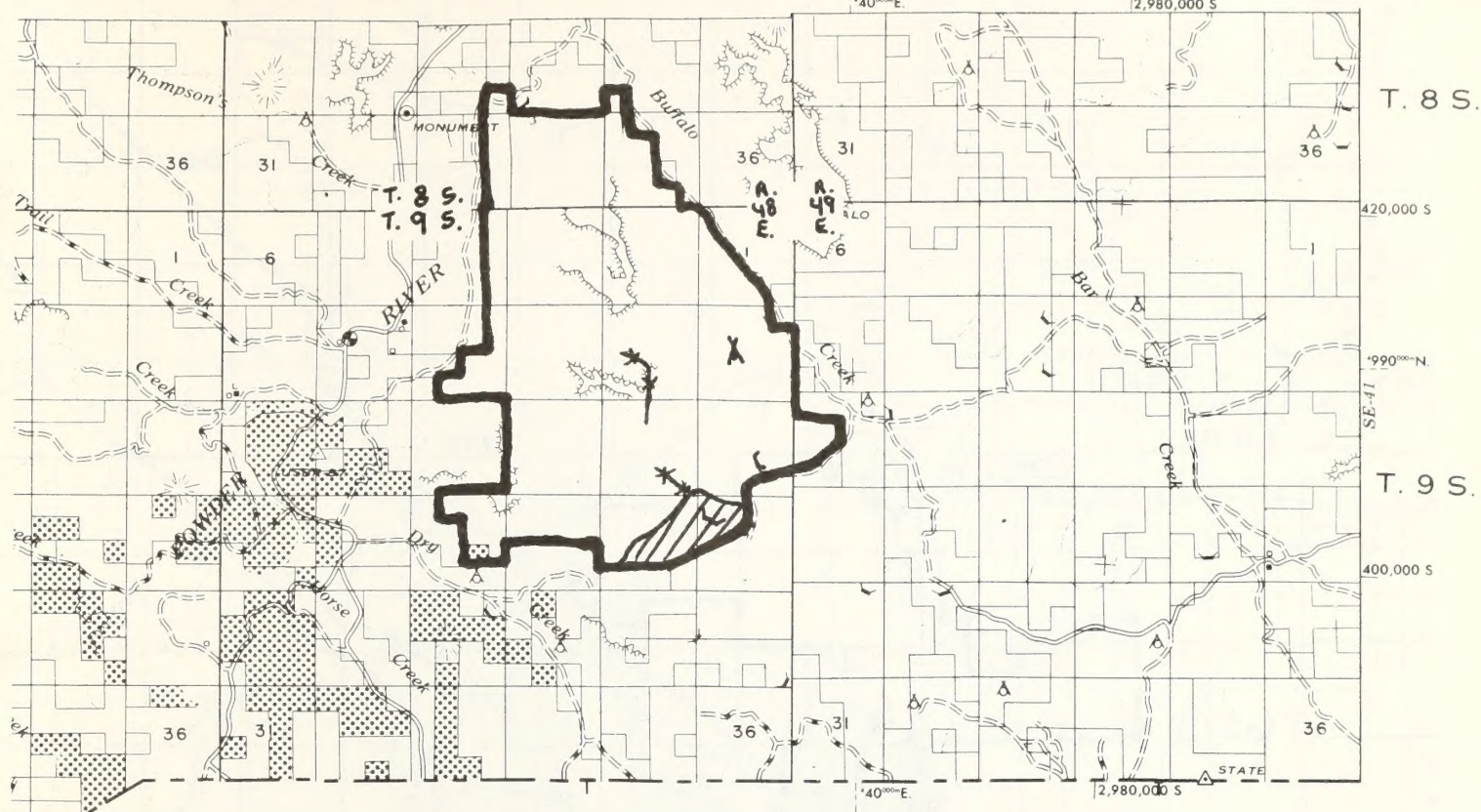


MT-024-694

-  Unit boundary
-  Vehicular way
-  Reservoir
-  Fence
-  Windmill
-  Well
-  Corral
-  Contour furrowing
-  Water spreader
-  Recommended new boundary

R. 48 E.

R. 49 E.



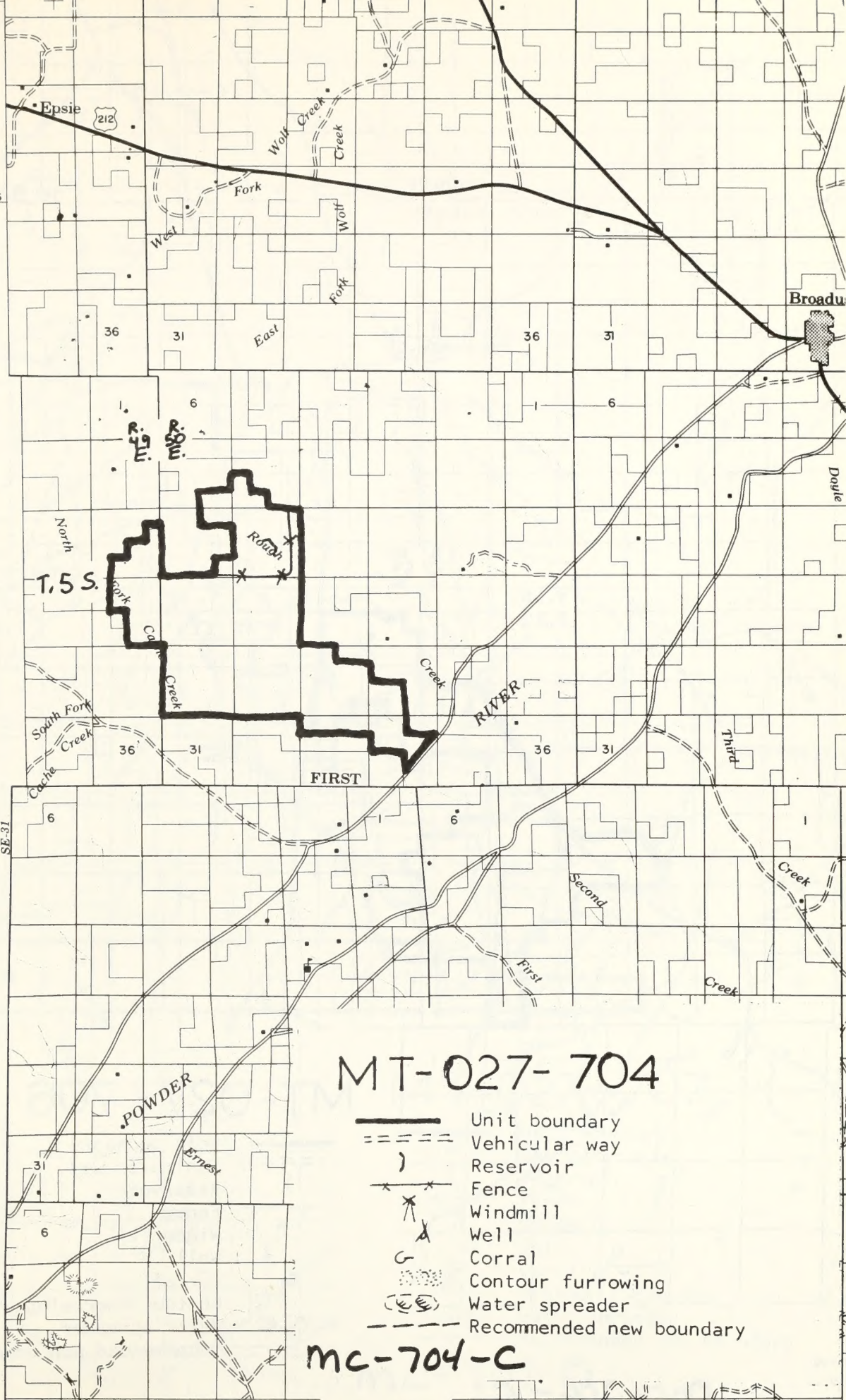
MT-027- 702

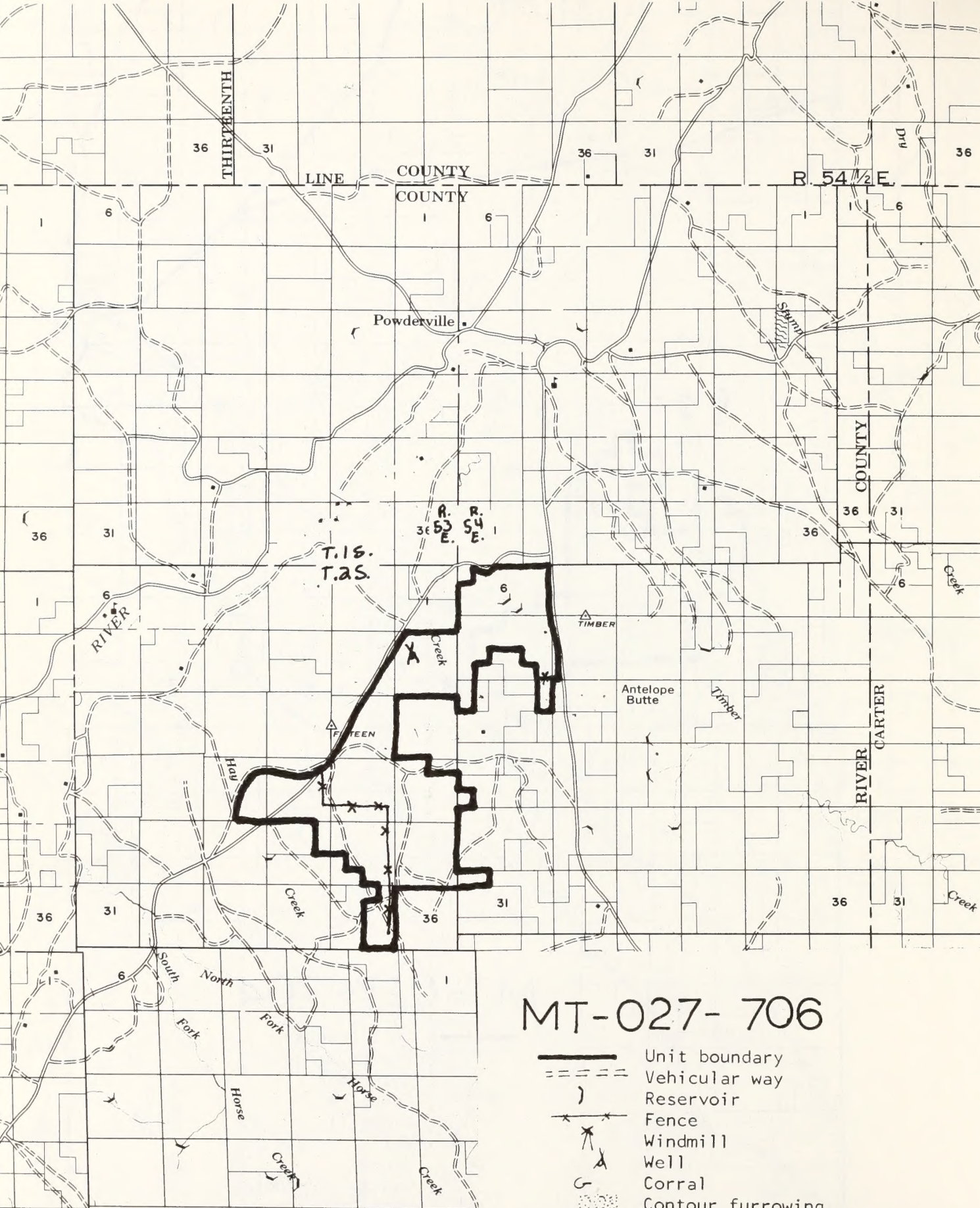
- Unit boundary
- Vehicular way
- Reservoir
- Fence
- Windmill
- Well
- Corral
- Contour furrowing
- Water spreader
- Recommended new boundary

MC-702-C

////// *Dropped*

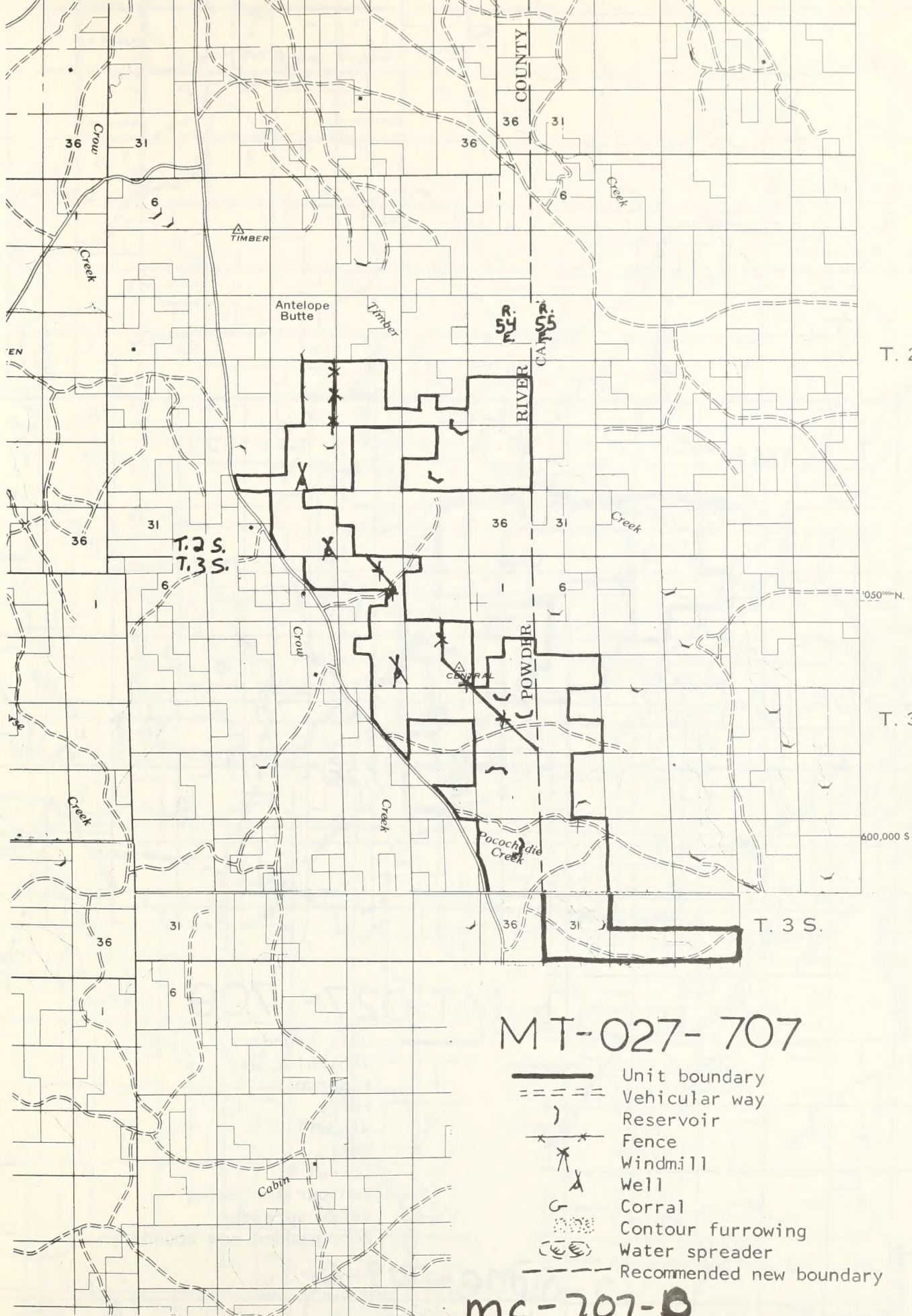
560,000 S

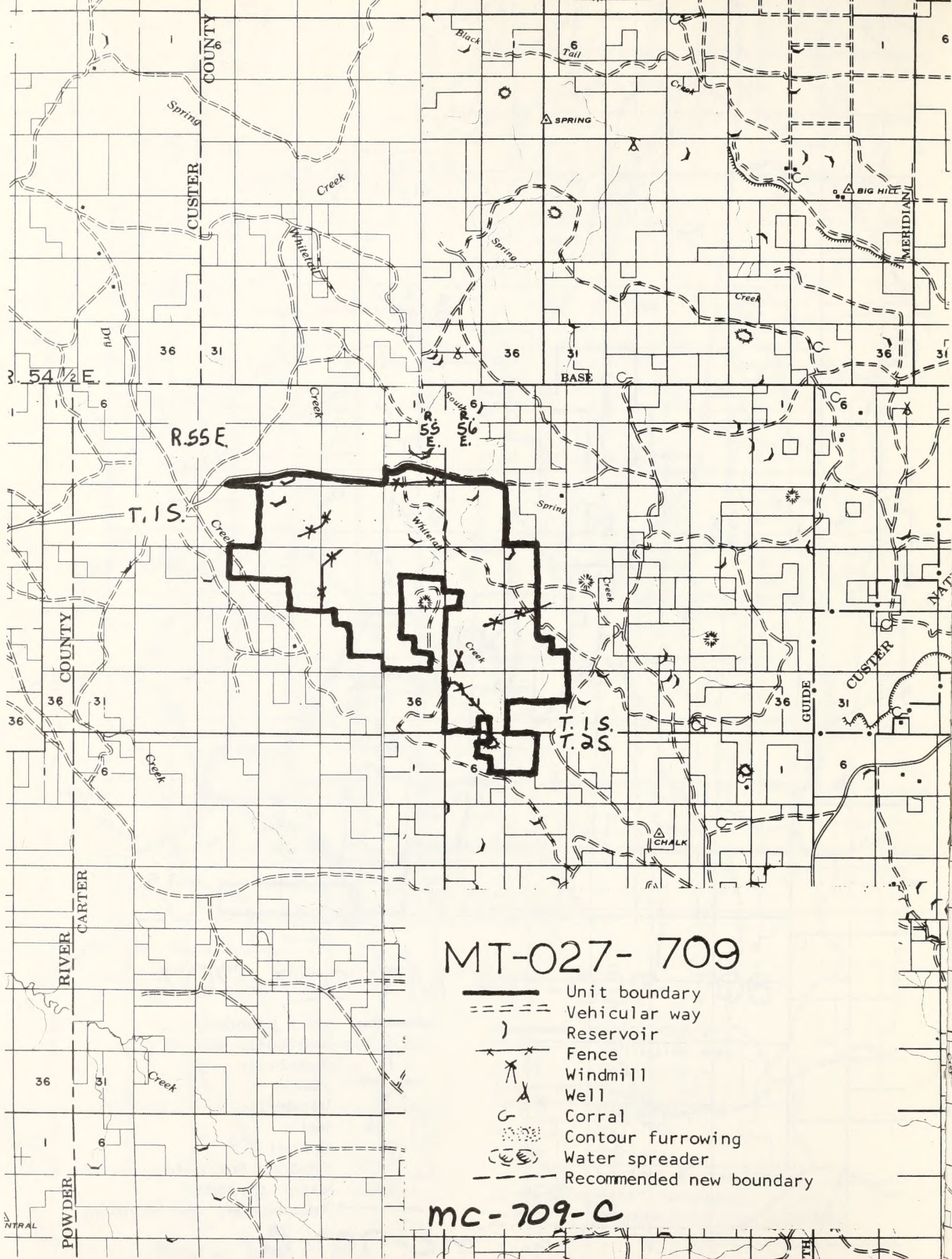




MT-027- 706

- Unit boundary
- - - - - Vehicular way
-) Reservoir
- x x x Fence
- x Windmill
- Δ Well
- Corral
- Contour furrowing
- Water spreader
- - - - - Recommended new boundary





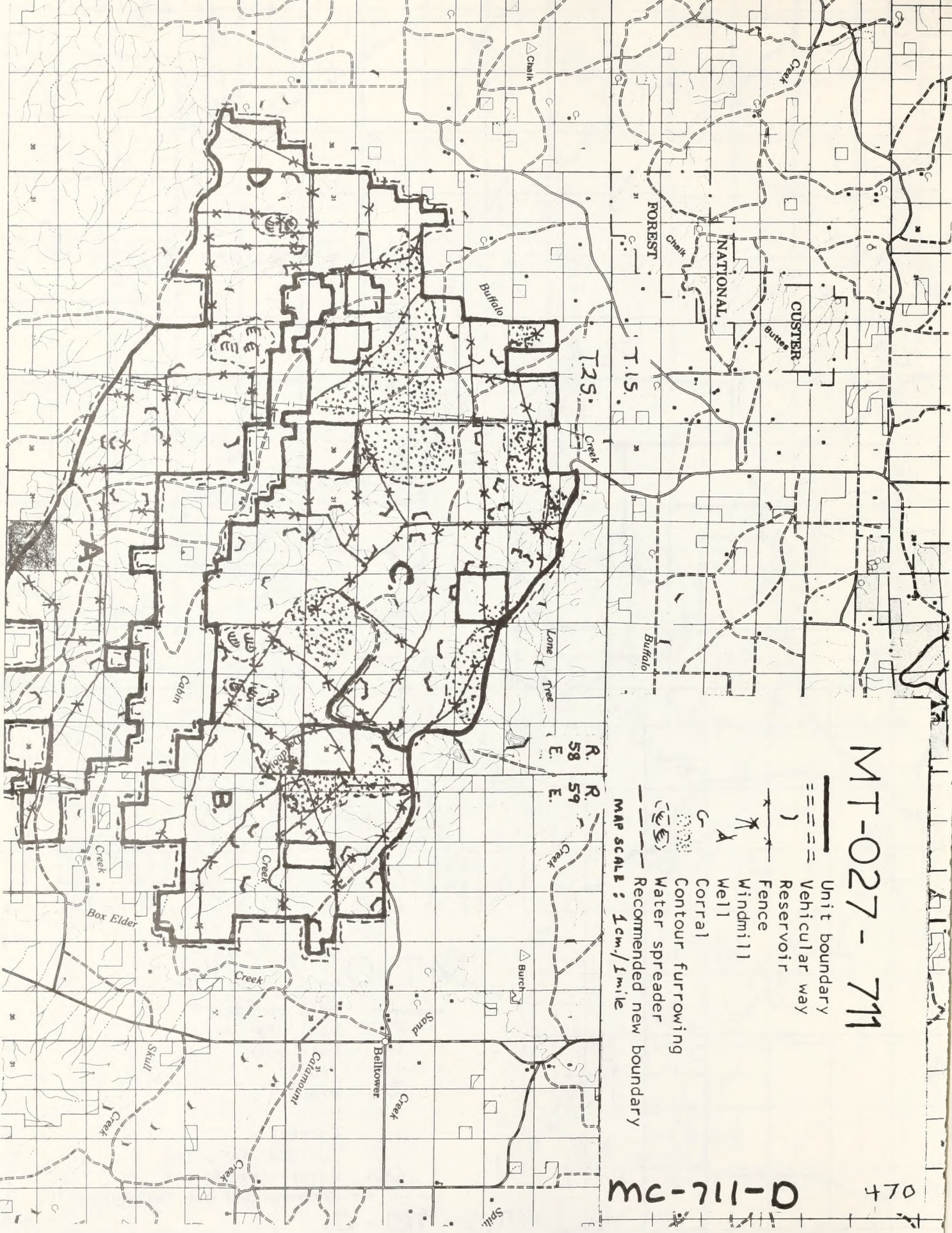
MT-027 - 711

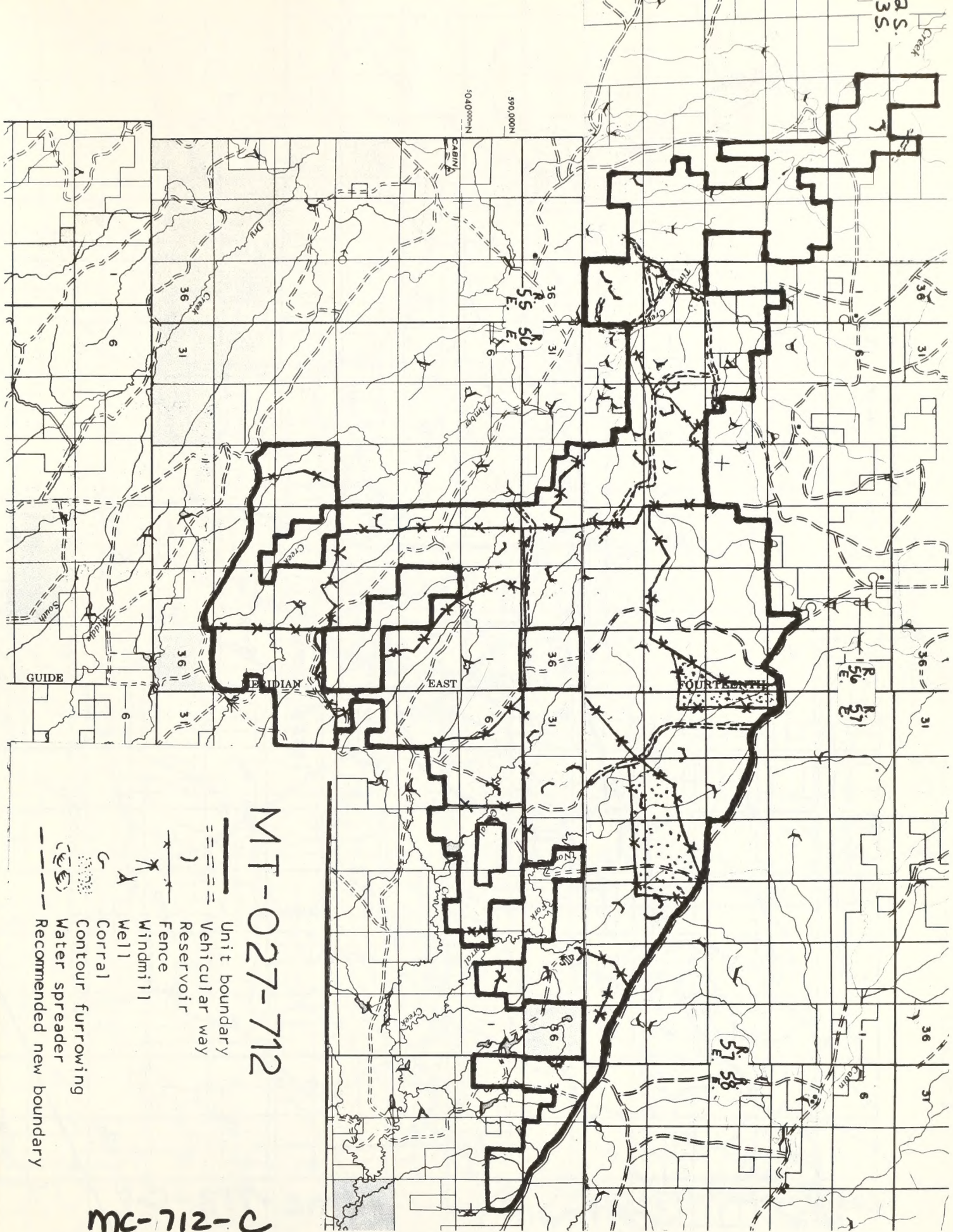
- Unit boundary
- Vehicular way
- Reservoir
- Fence
- Windmill
- Well
- Corral
- Contour furrowing
- Water spreader
- Recommended new boundary

MAP SCALE : 1cm/1mile

MC-711-D

470





MT-027-712

- Unit boundary
- Vehicular way
- Reservoir
- Fence
- Windmill
- Well
- Corral
- Contour furrowing
- Water spreader
- Recommended new boundary

mc-712-C

MT-027-713

mc-713-c

R52E, R53E, T.8S., T.7S.

Little Thirteenth

Guide

East Fork

Burdette

Bell

Bell

Horse

Dry

Rough

Alison

Bear

First Creek

Second Creek

Powder Creek

Reservoir

Fence

Windmill

Well

Corral

Unit boundary

Vehicular way

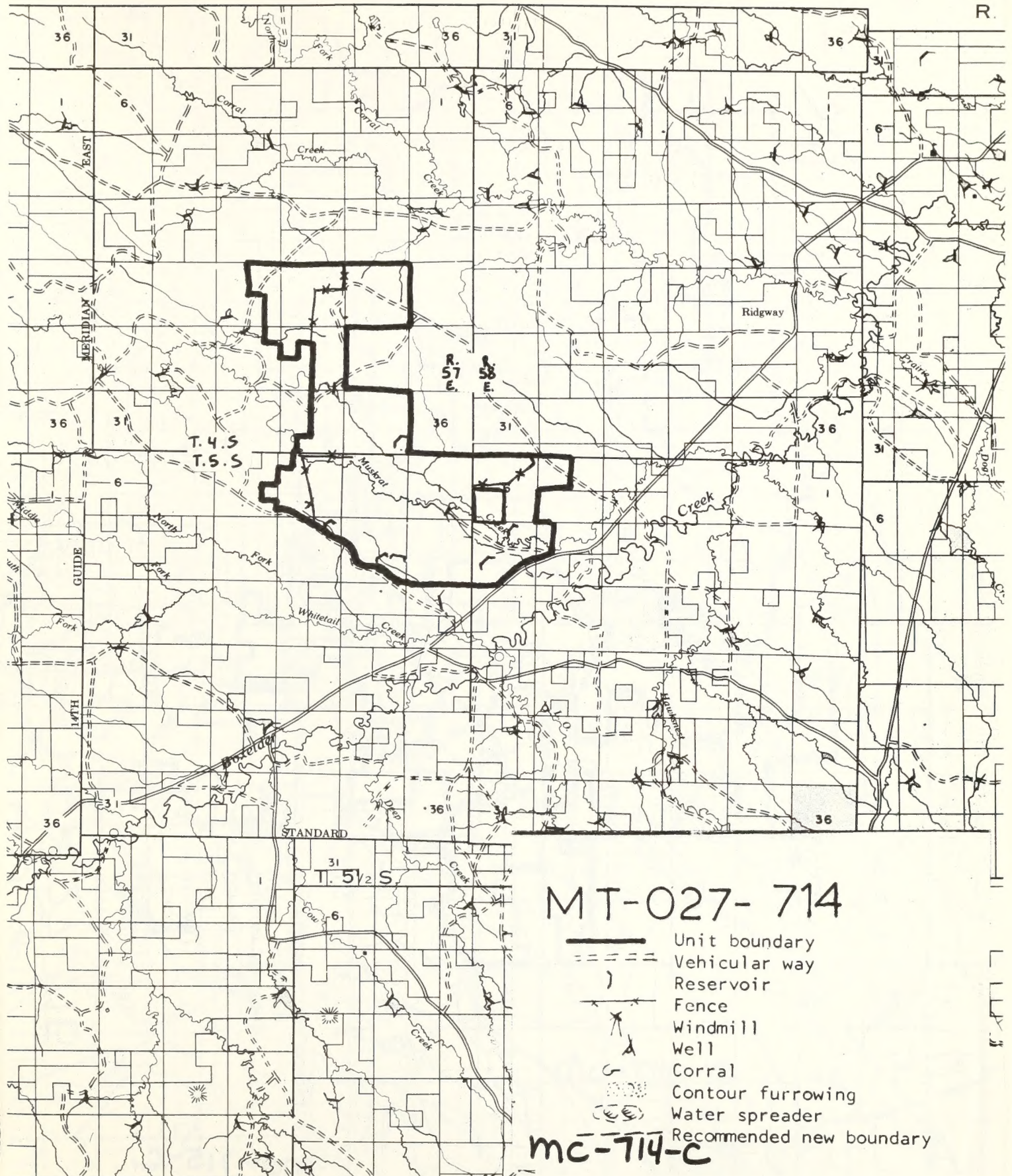
472

R. 57 E.

R. 58 E.

MONTANA

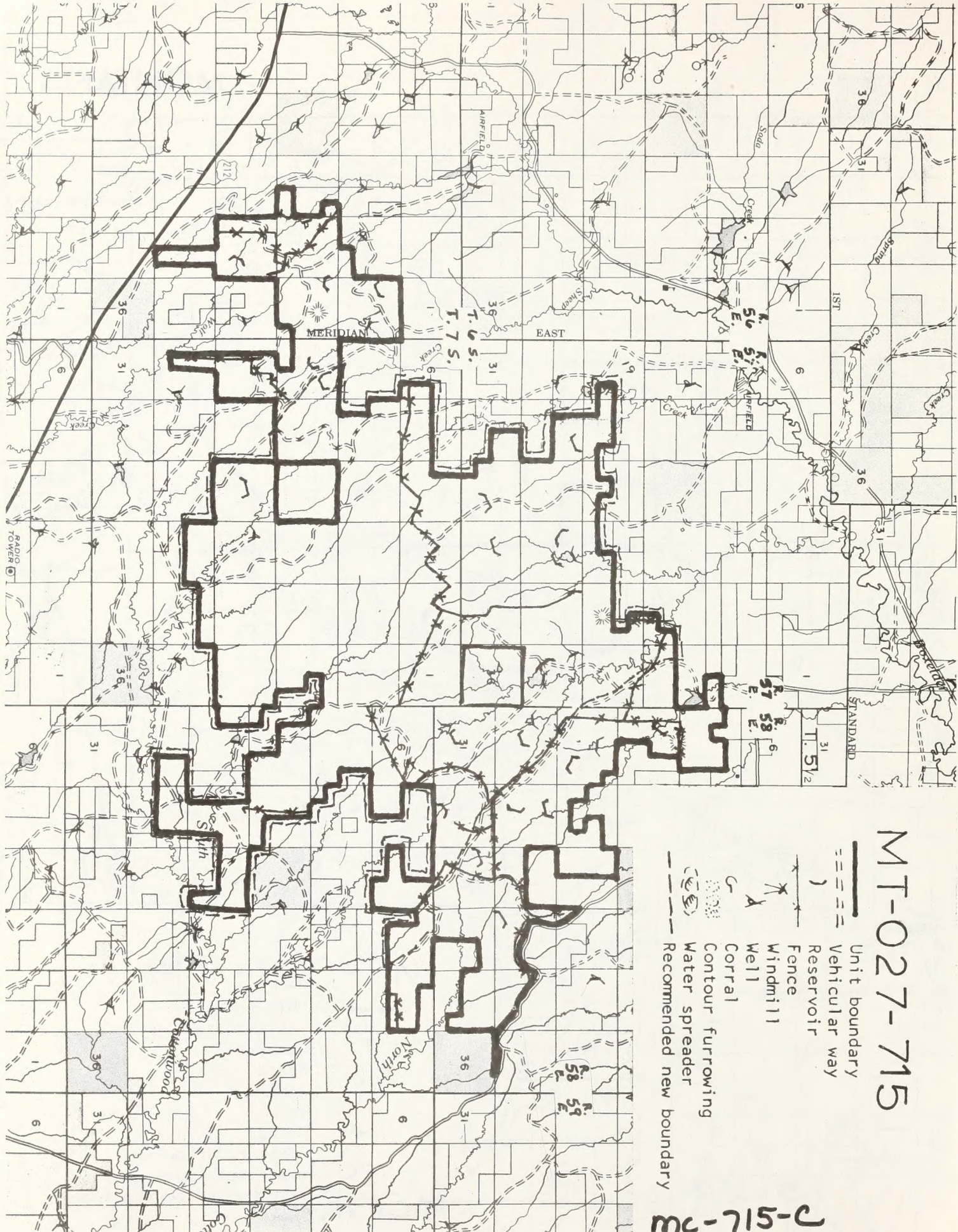
R.

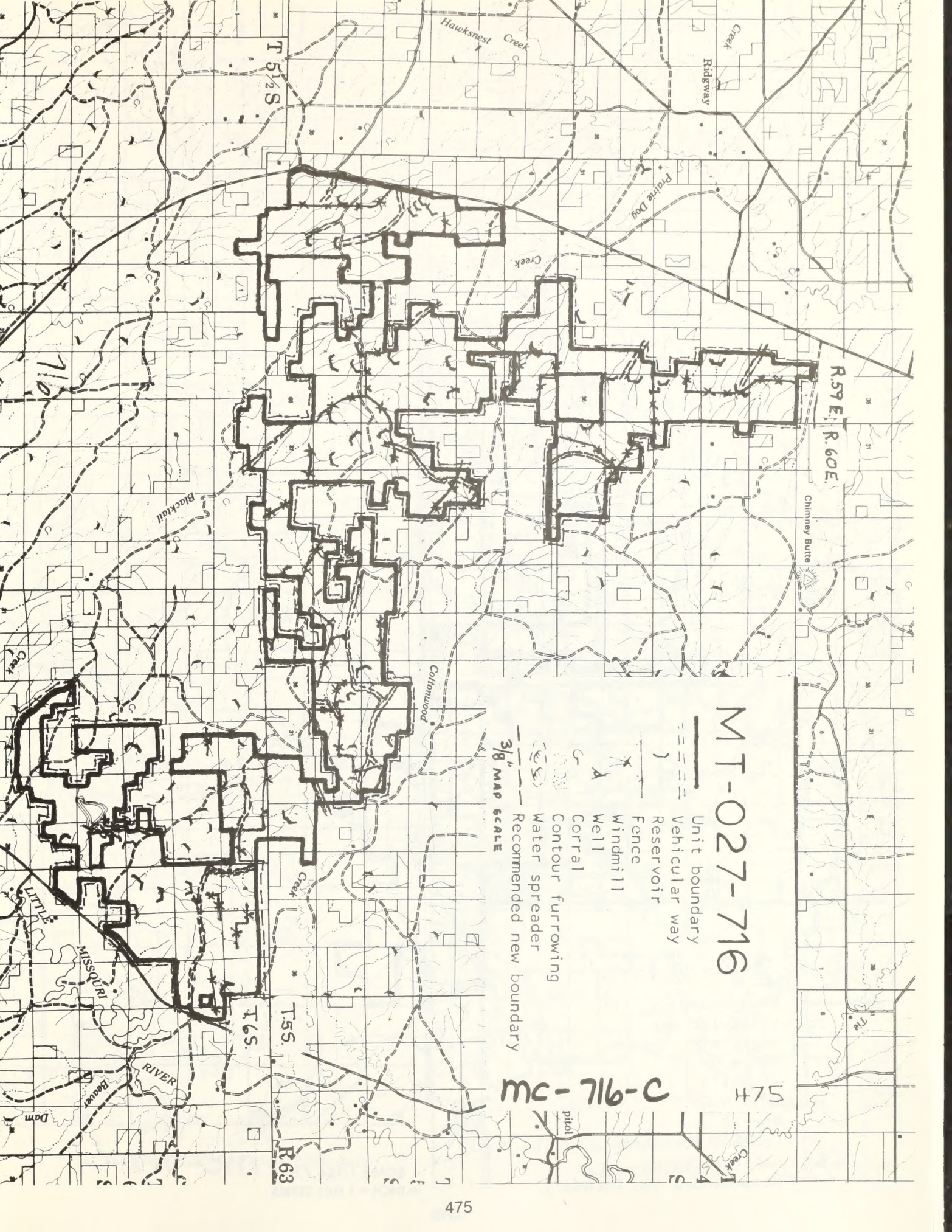


MT-027-715

- Unit boundary
- Vehicular way
- Reservoir
- Fence
- Windmill
- Well
- Corral
- Contour furrowing
- Water spreader
- Recommended new boundary

mc-715-c





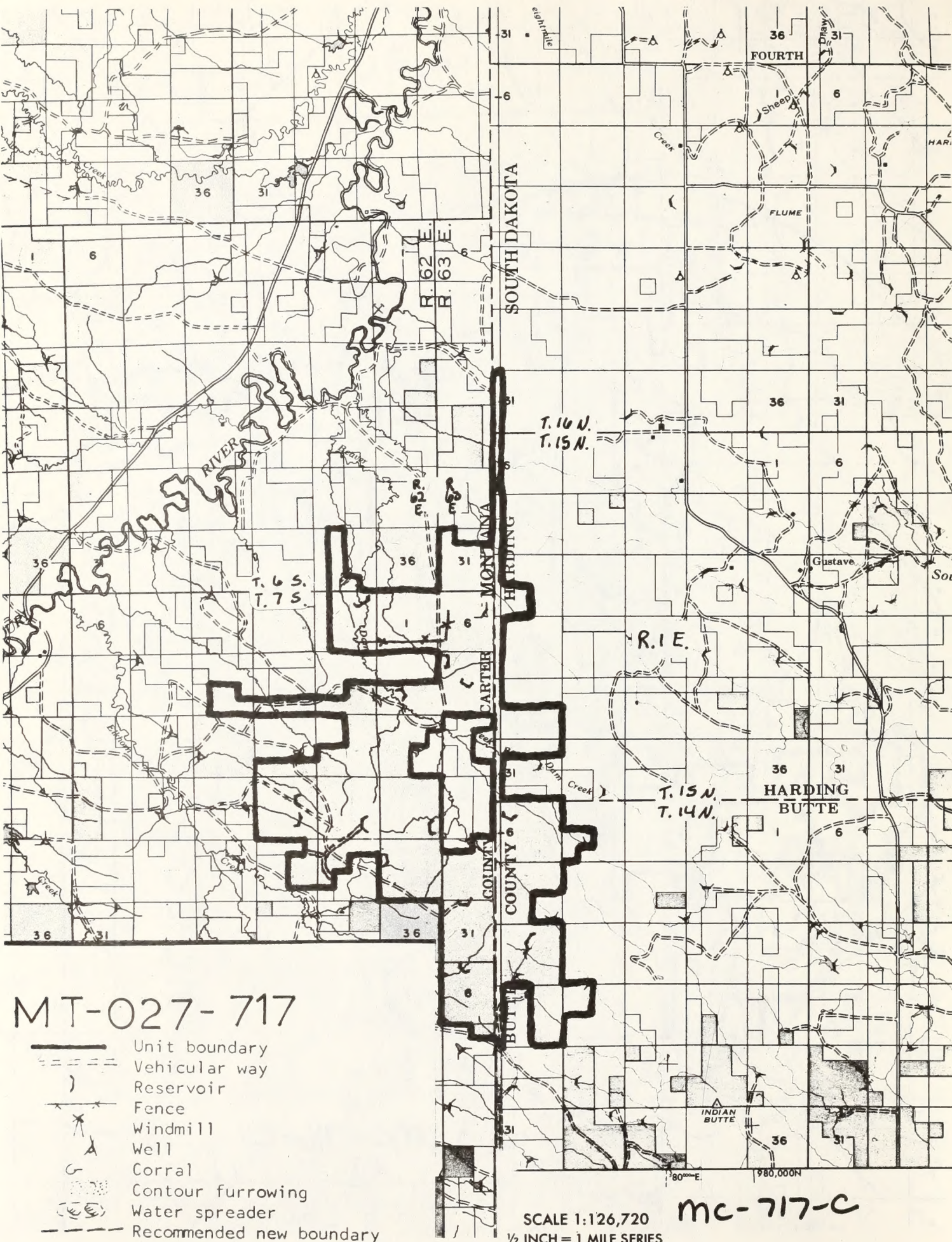
MT-027-716

- Unit boundary
- Vehicular way
- Reservoir
- Fence
- Windmill
- Well
- Corral
- Contour furrowing
- Water spreader
- Recommended new boundary

3/8" MAP SCALE

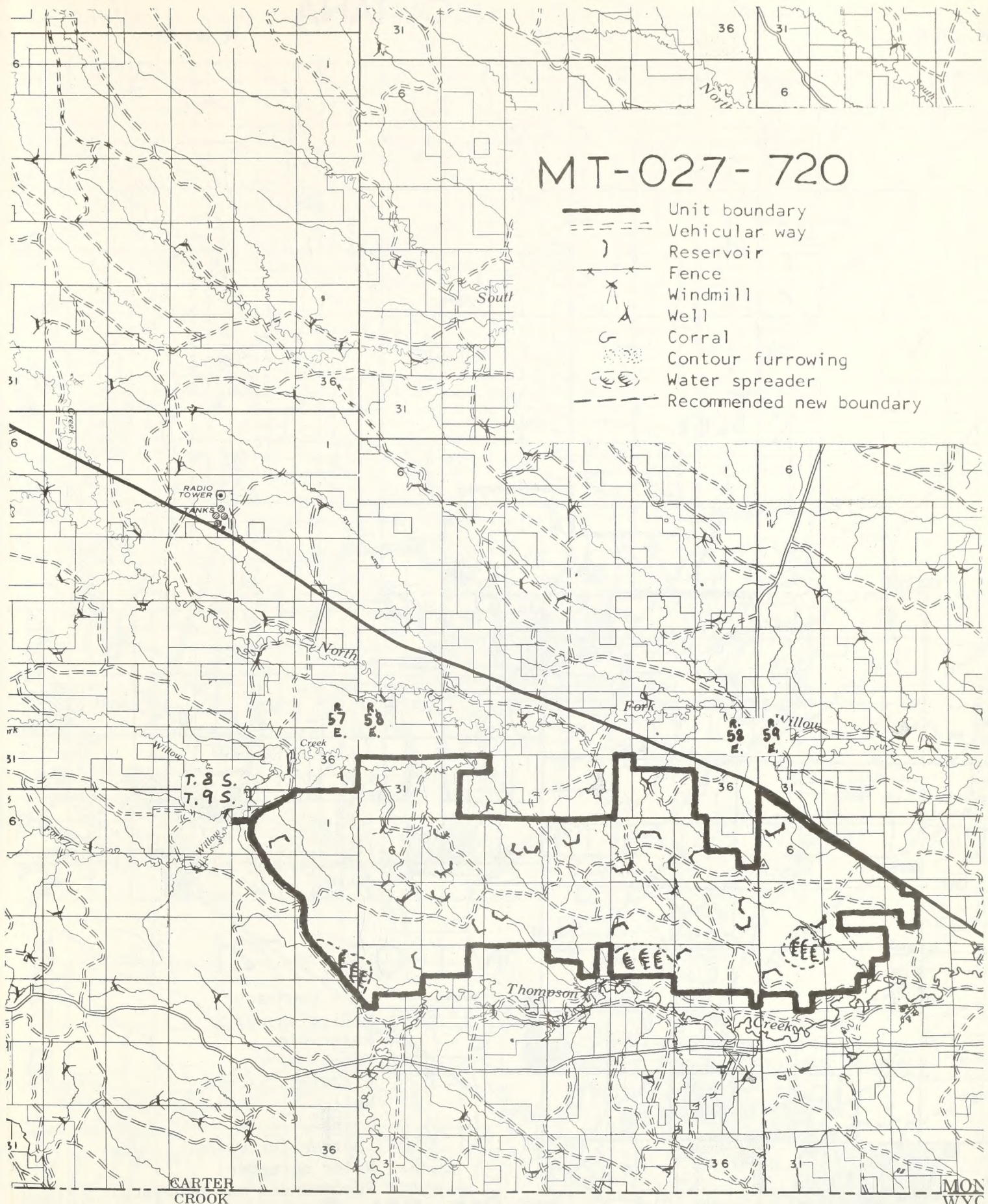
mc-716-c

475



MT-027-720

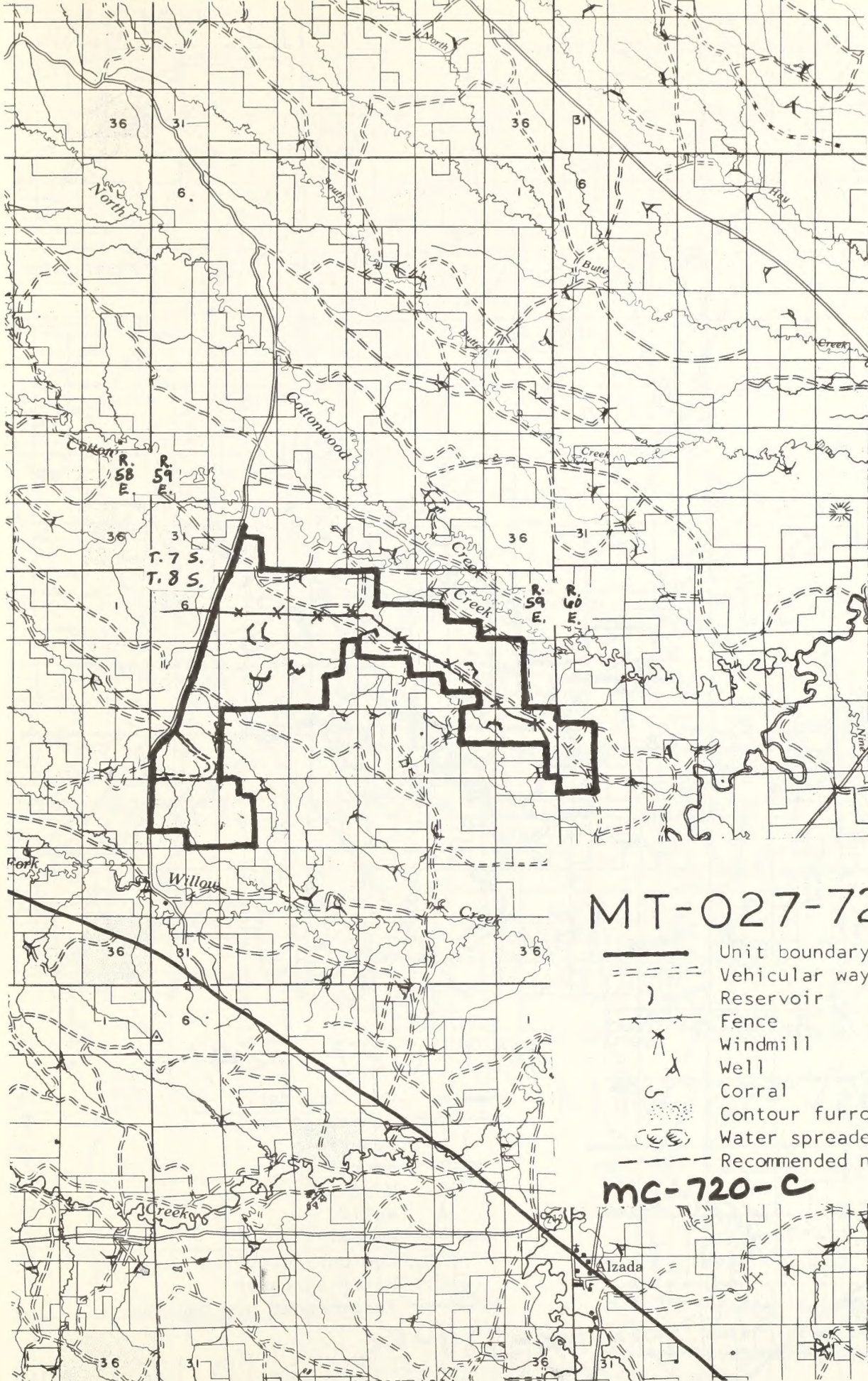
-  Unit boundary
-  Vehicular way
-  Reservoir
-  Fence
-  Windmill
-  Well
-  Corral
-  Contour furrowing
-  Water spreader
-  Recommended new boundary



MON
WYC
JUN

mc-720-C

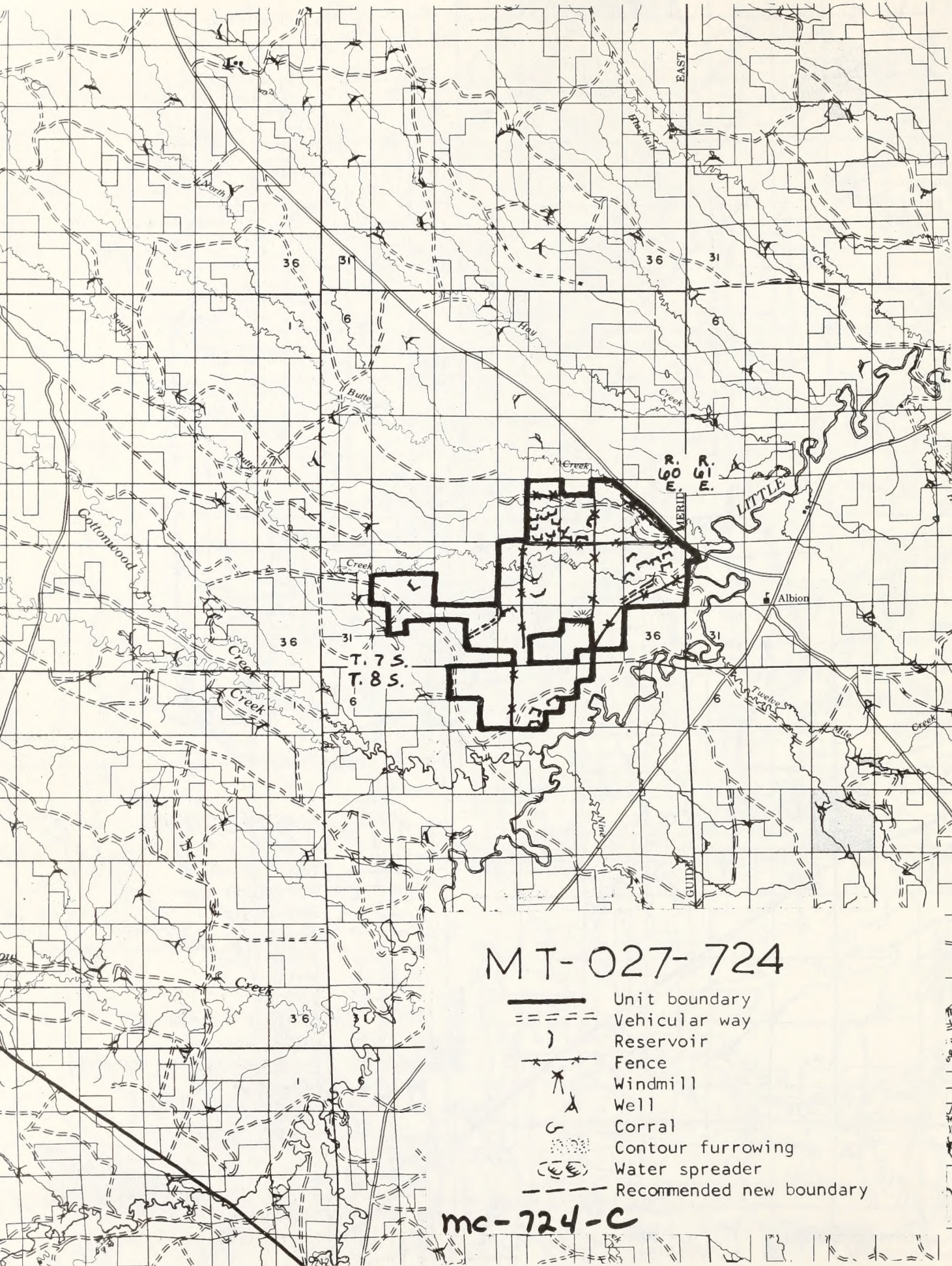




MT-027-723

- Unit boundary
- Vehicular way
- Reservoir
- Fence
- Windmill
- Well
- Corral
- Contour furrowing
- Water spreader
- Recommended new boundary

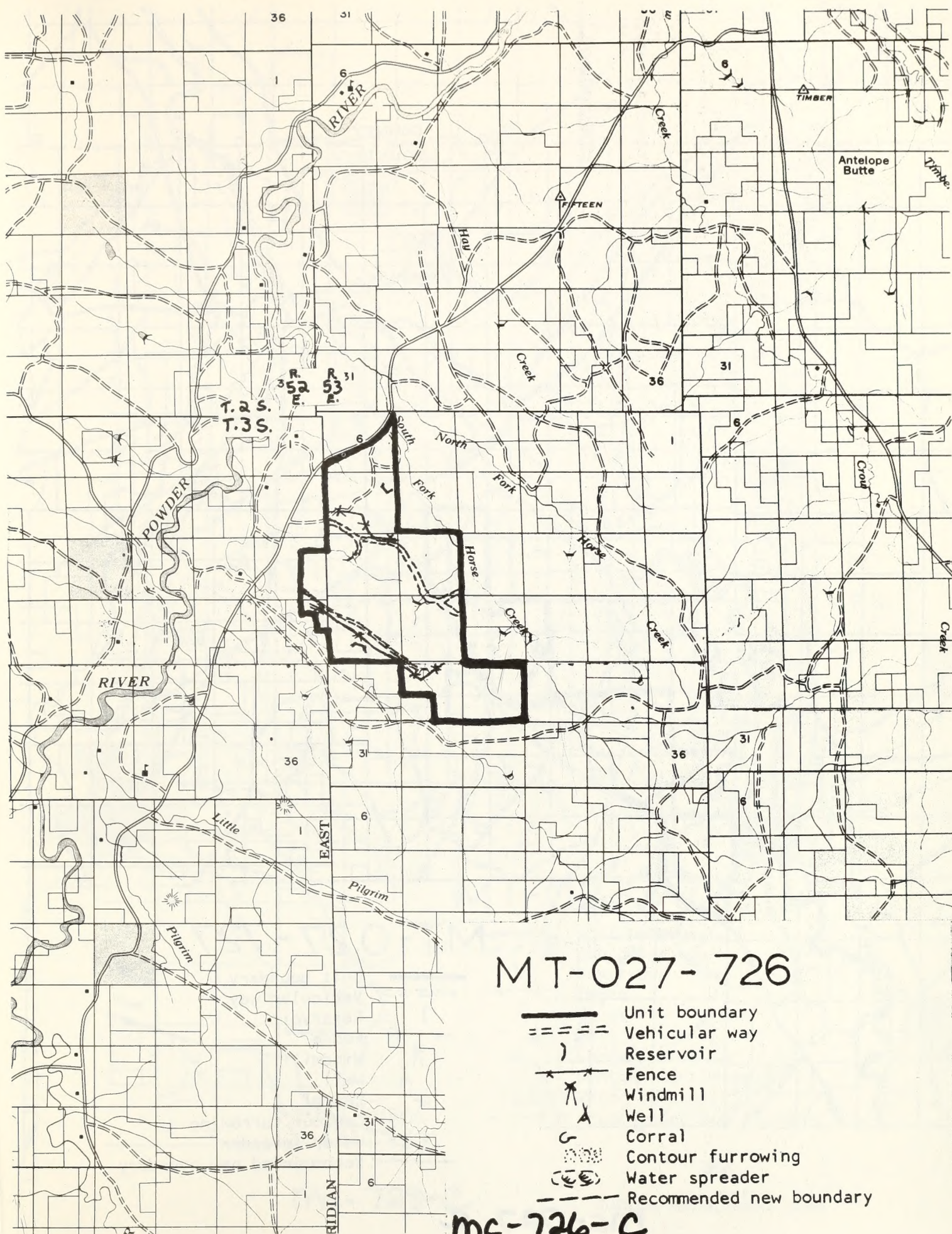
mc-720-C

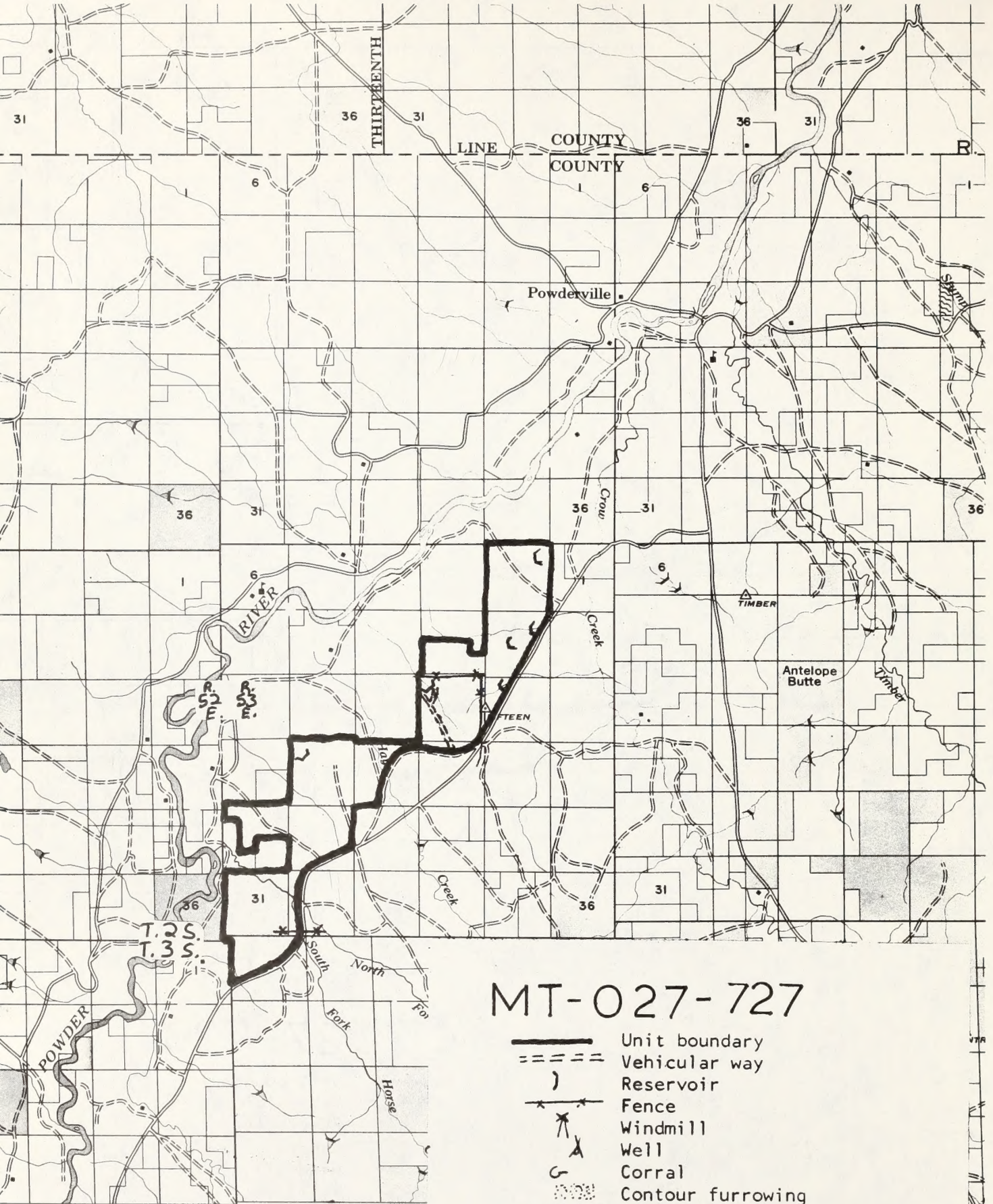


MT-027-724

- Unit boundary
- == Vehicular way
-) Reservoir
- *— Fence
- ⋈ Windmill
- ⋈ Well
- ⋈ Corral
- ⋈ Contour furrowing
- ⋈ Water spreader
- - - Recommended new boundary

mc-724-C





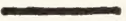
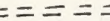
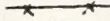
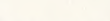
MT-027-727

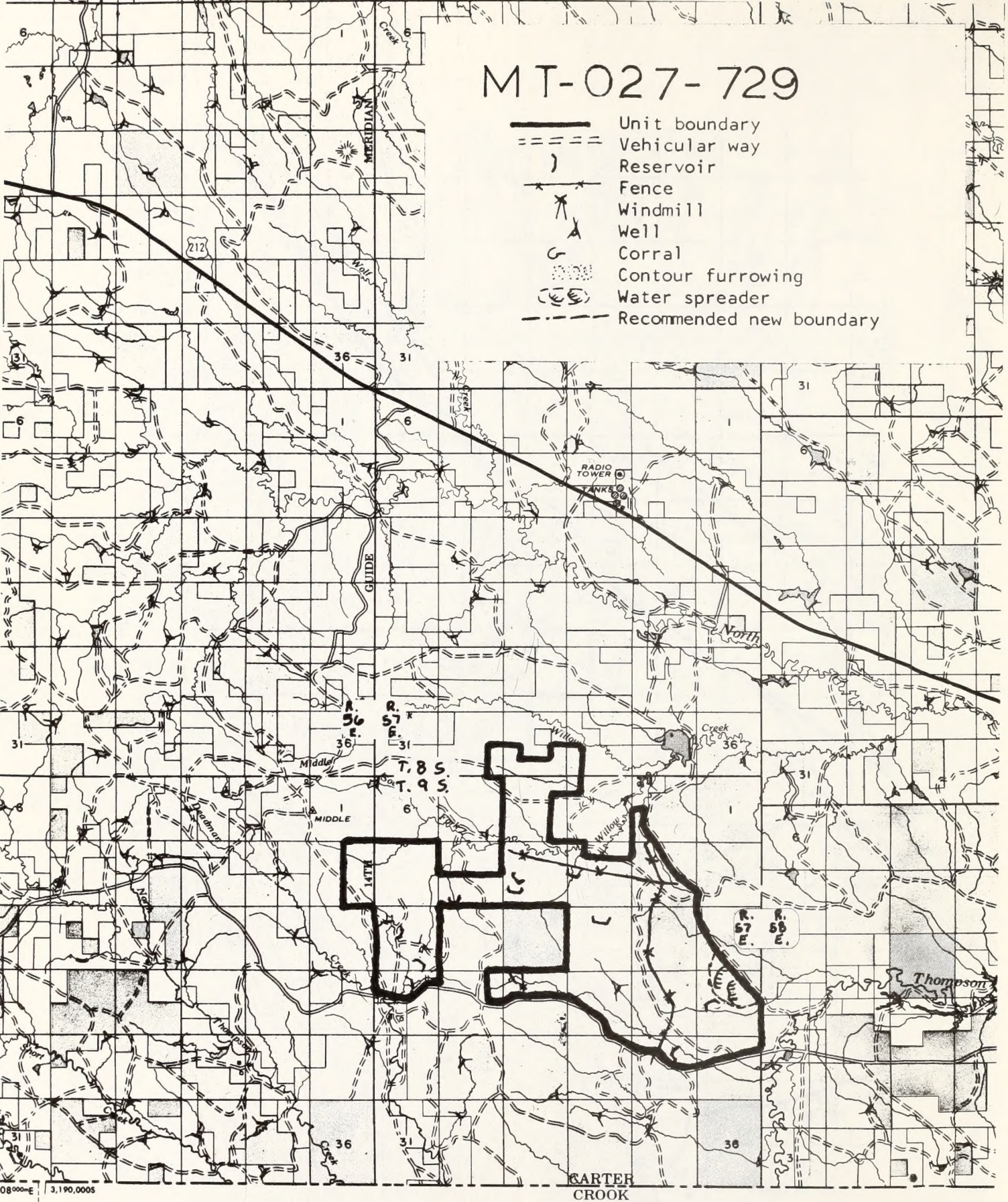
- Unit boundary
- Vehicular way
- Reservoir
- Fence
- Windmill
- Well
- Corral
- Contour furrowing
- Water spreader
- Recommended new boundary

SE-32
1974

mc-727-C

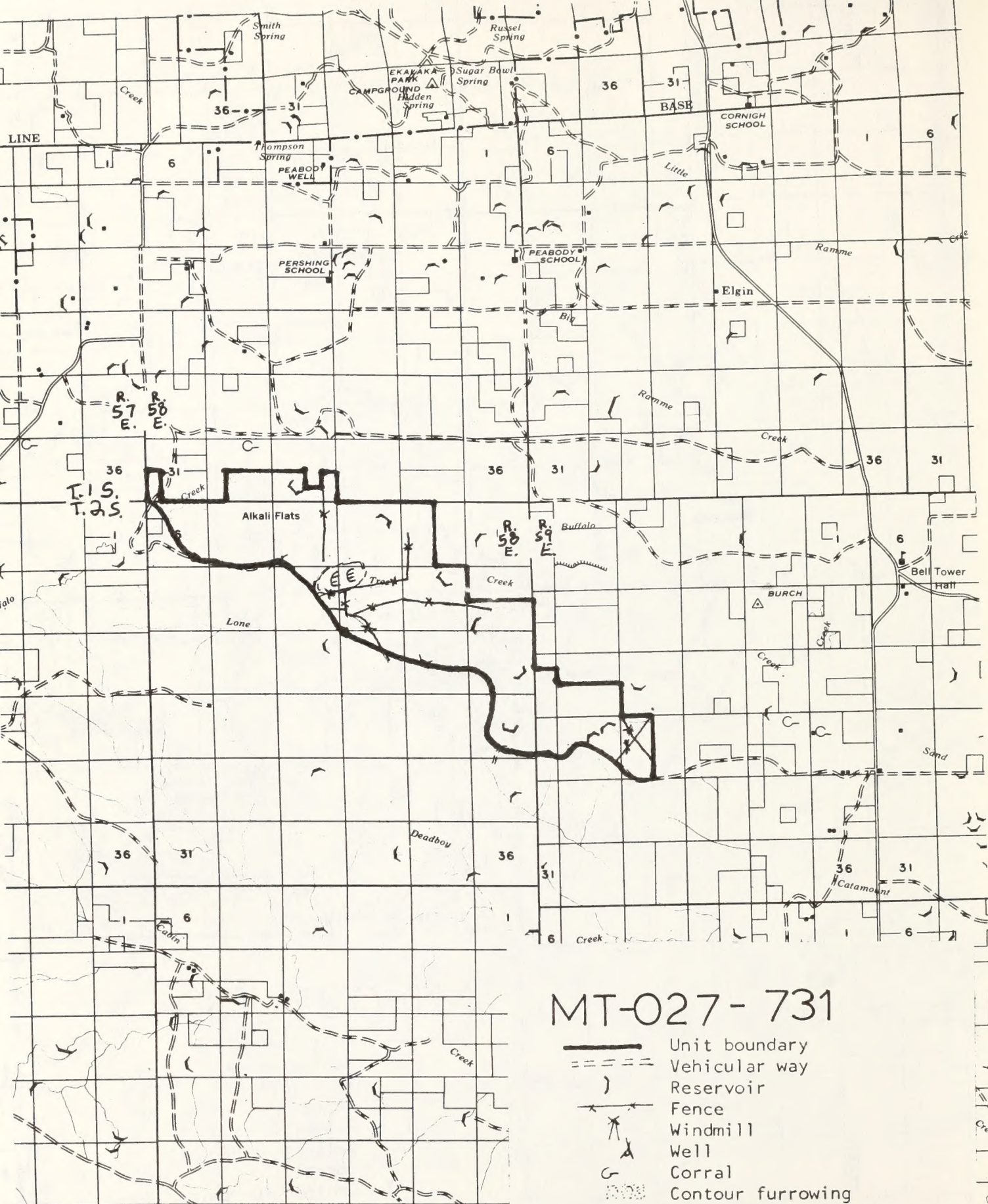
MT-027-729

-  Unit boundary
-  Vehicular way
-  Reservoir
-  Fence
-  Windmill
-  Well
-  Corral
-  Contour furrowing
-  Water spreader
-  Recommended new boundary



SCALE 1:126,720
1 INCH = 1 MILE SERIES

MC-729-C

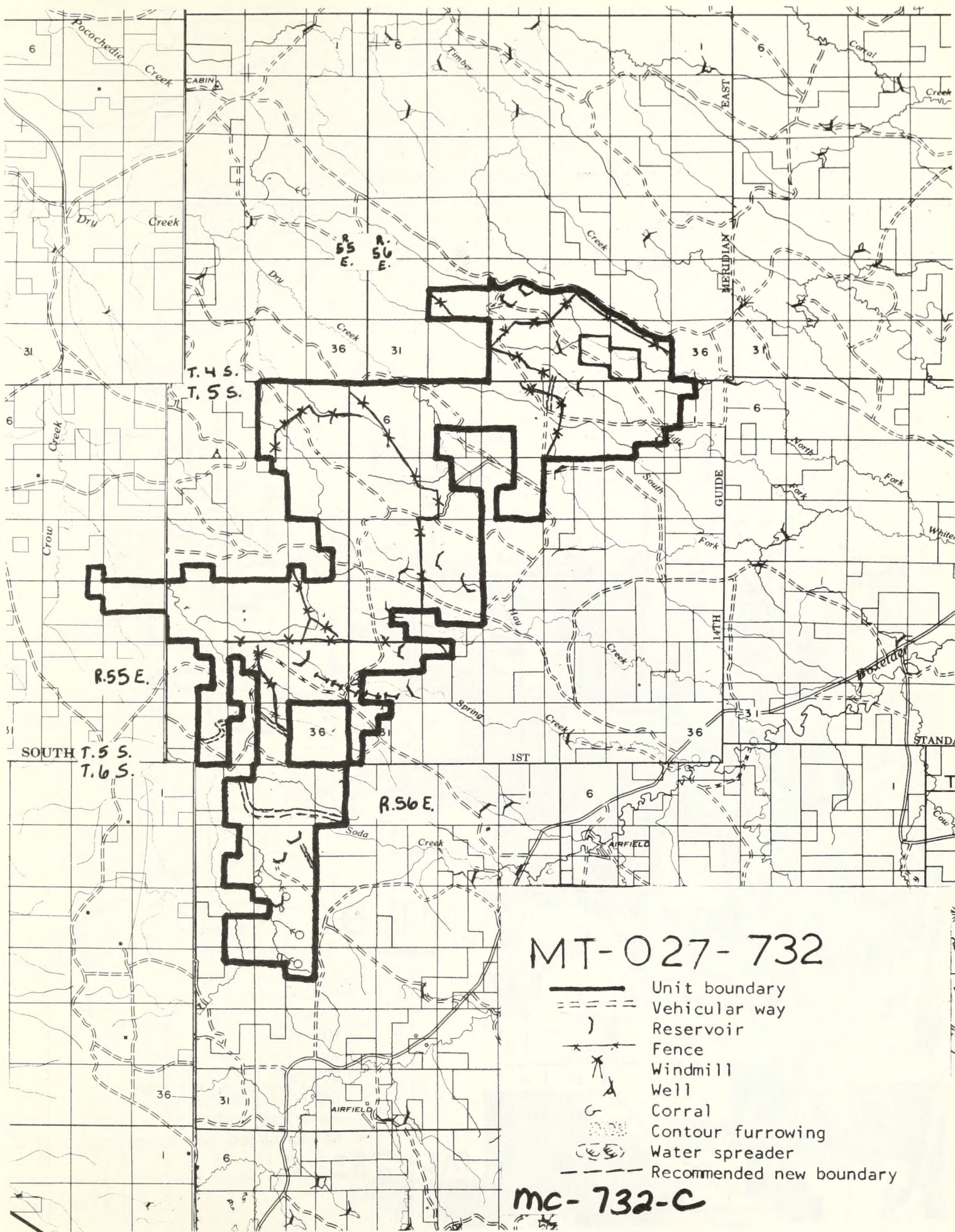


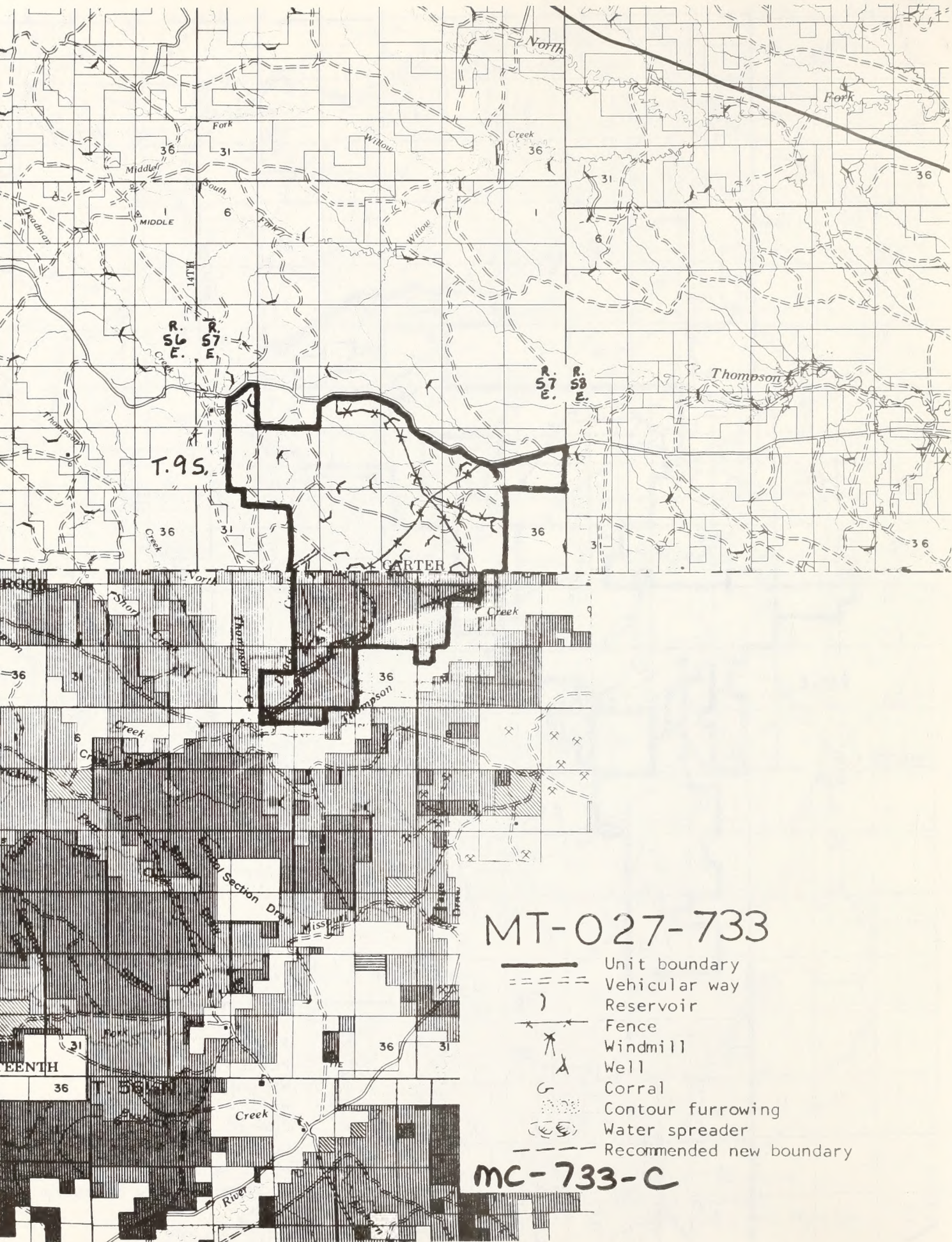
SE-33
MAY 1975

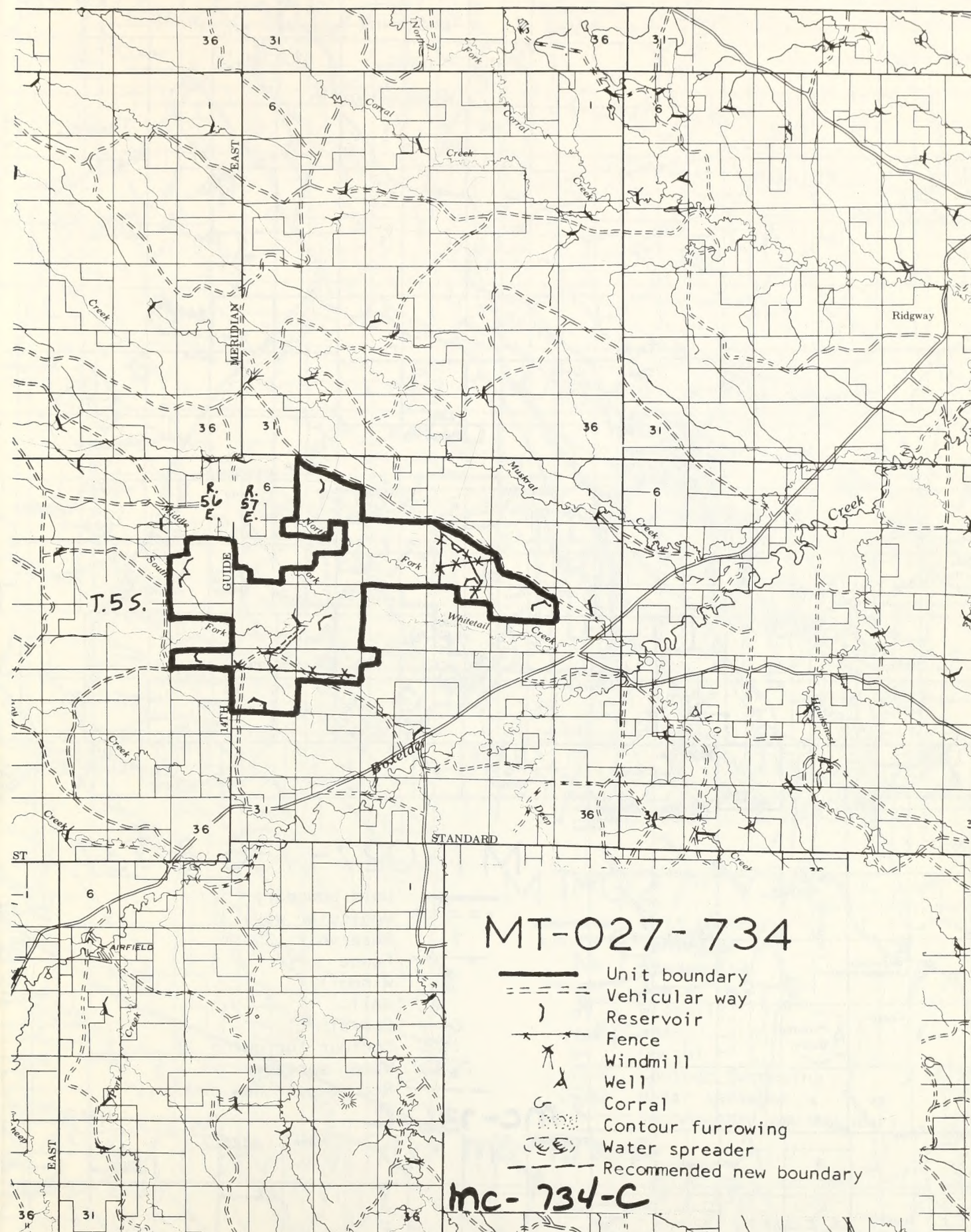
MT-027-731

- Unit boundary
- Vehicular way
- Reservoir
- Fence
- Windmill
- Well
- Corral
- Contour furrowing
- Water spreader
- Recommended new boundary

mc-731-c

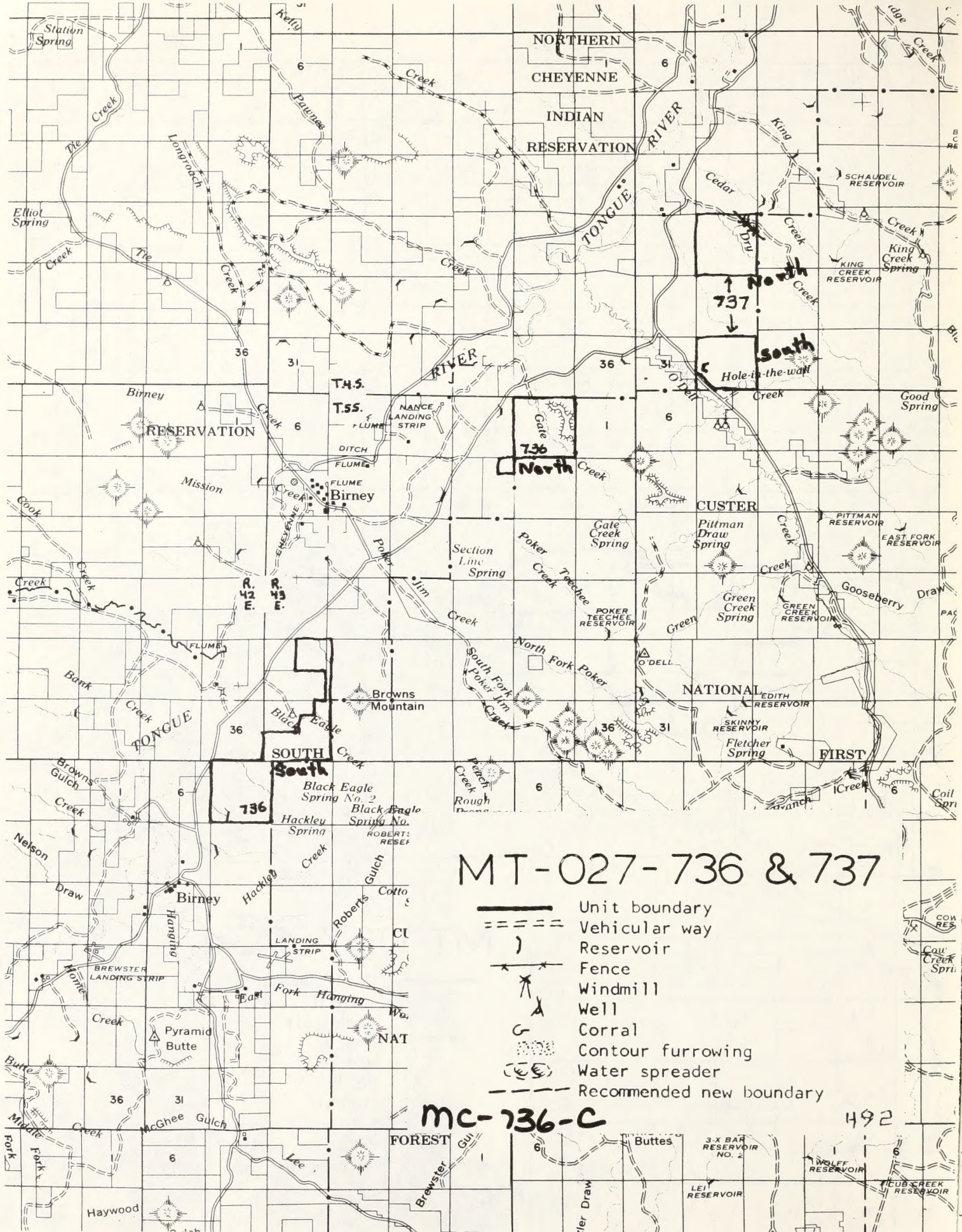


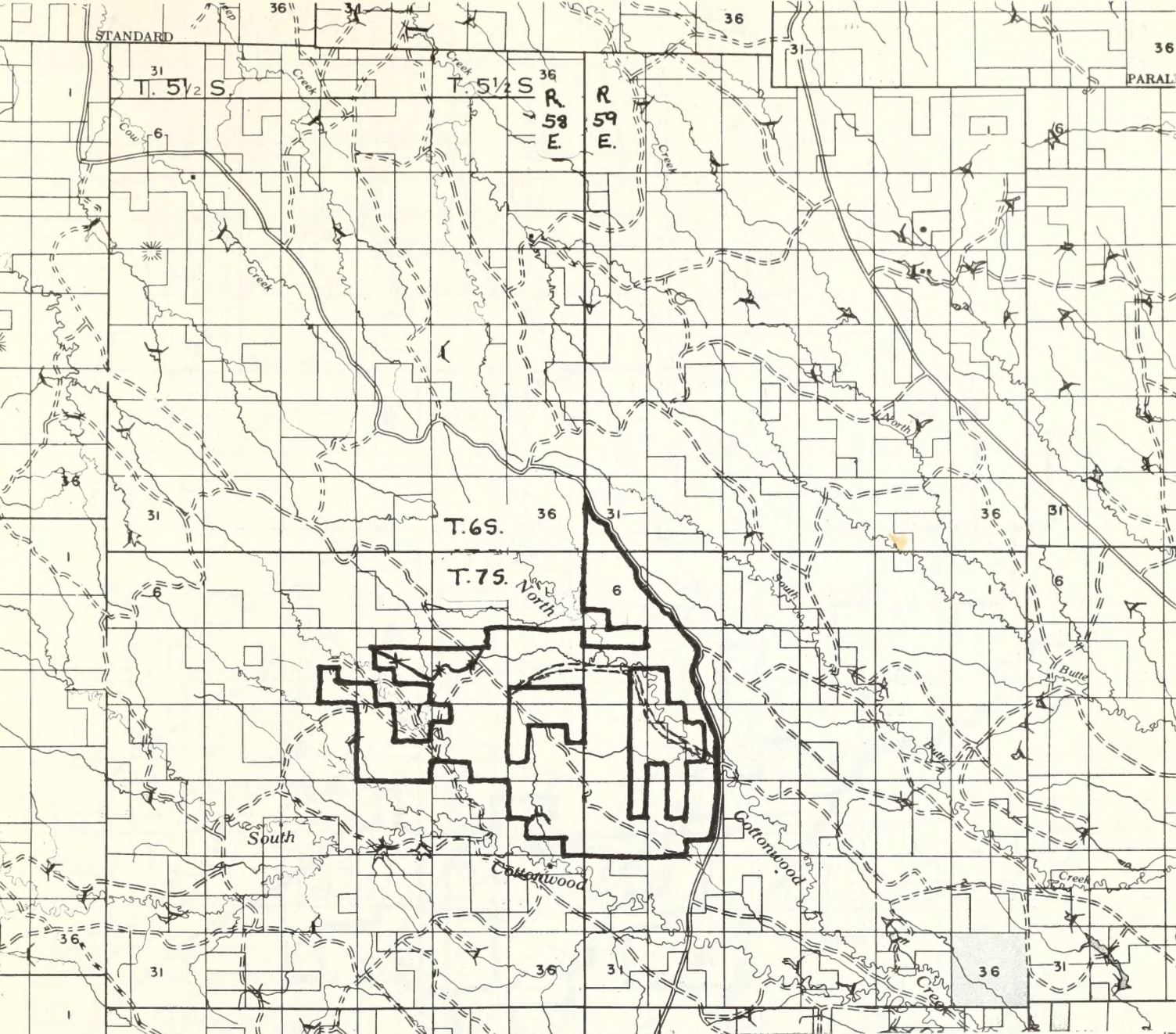




MT-027-734

mc-734-C



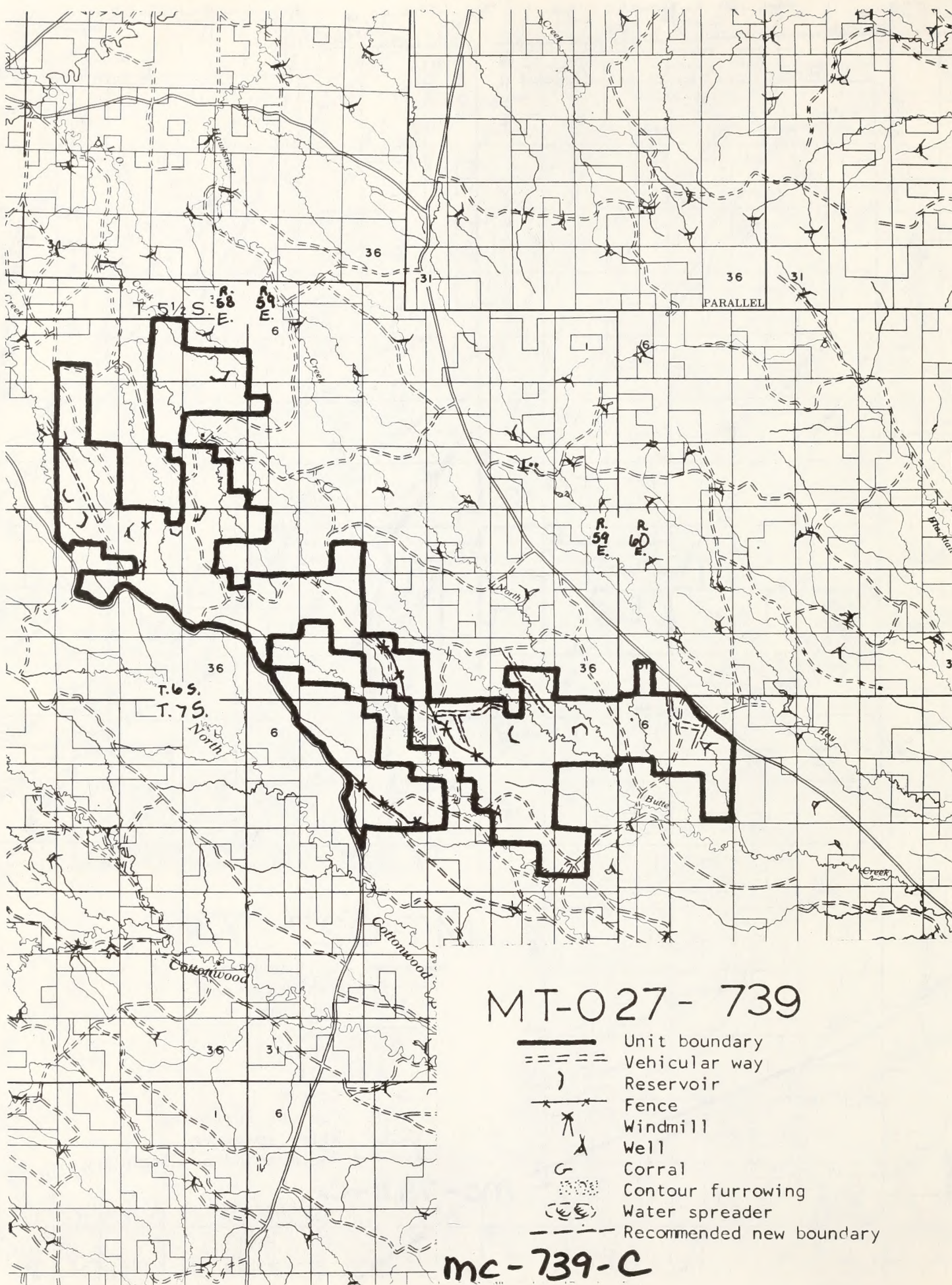


MT-027- 738

- Unit boundary
- Vehicular way
- Reservoir
- Fence
- Windmill
- Well
- Corral
- Contour furrowing
- Water spreader
- Recommended new boundary

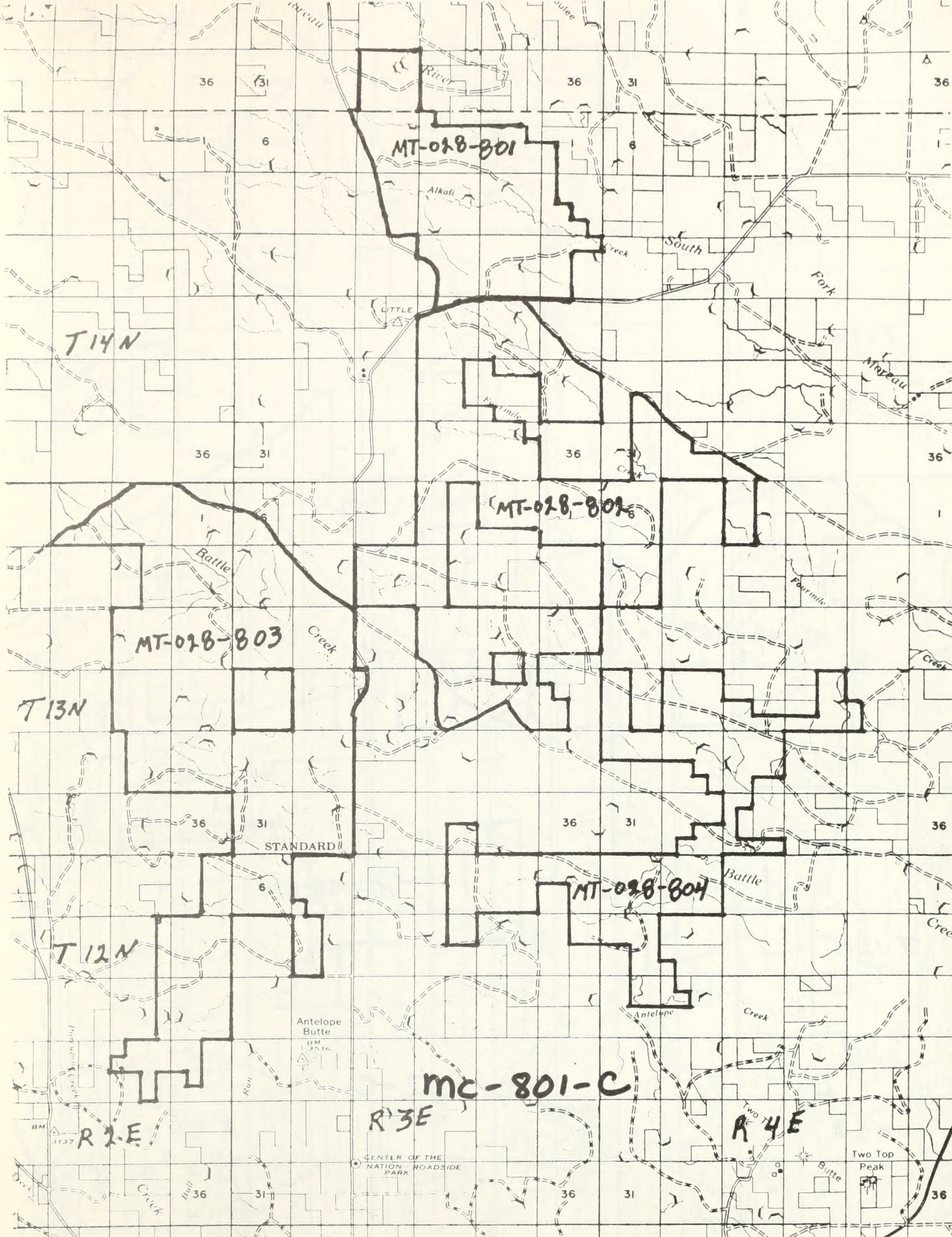
mc-738-C

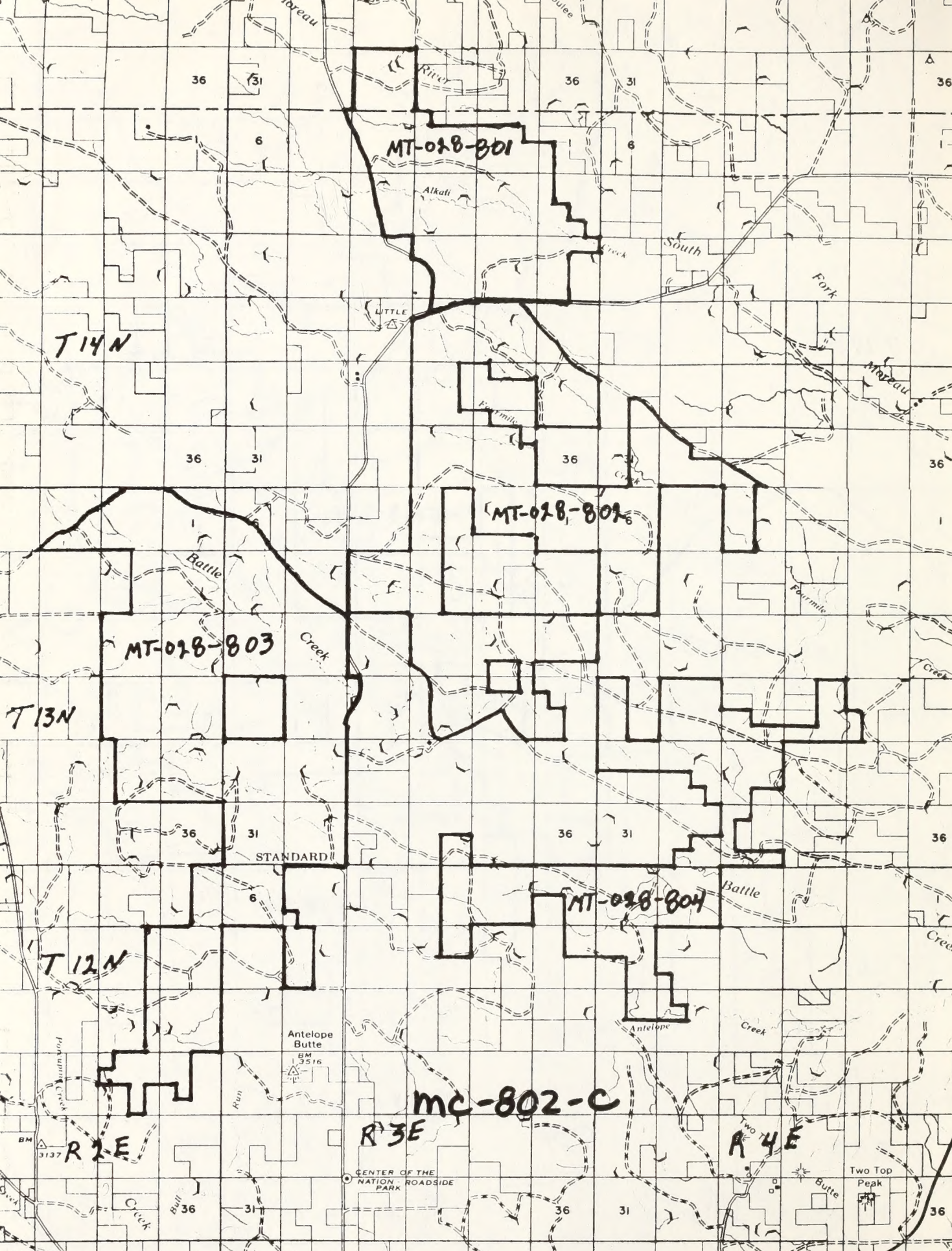
493

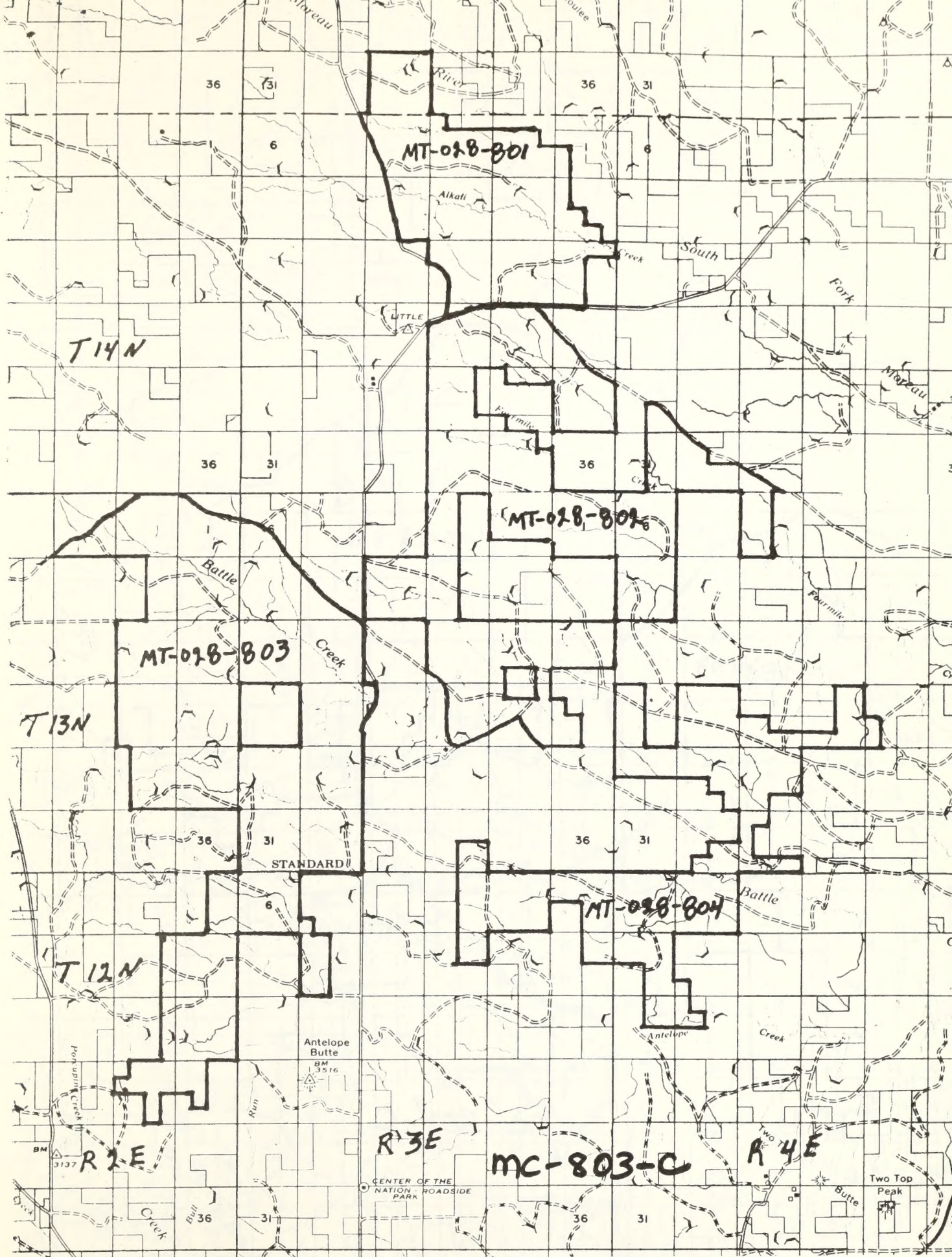


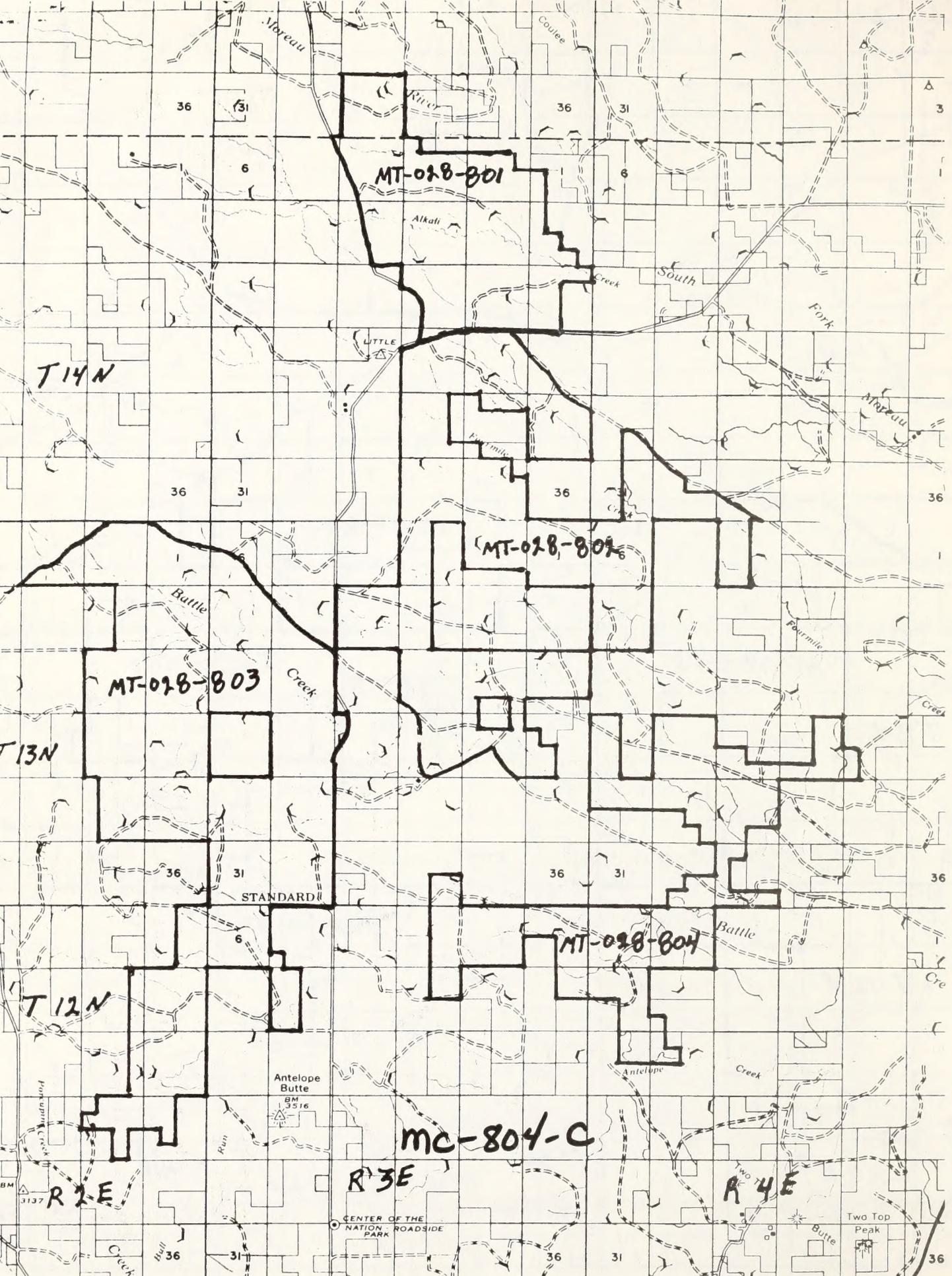
MT-027 - 739

mc-739-C









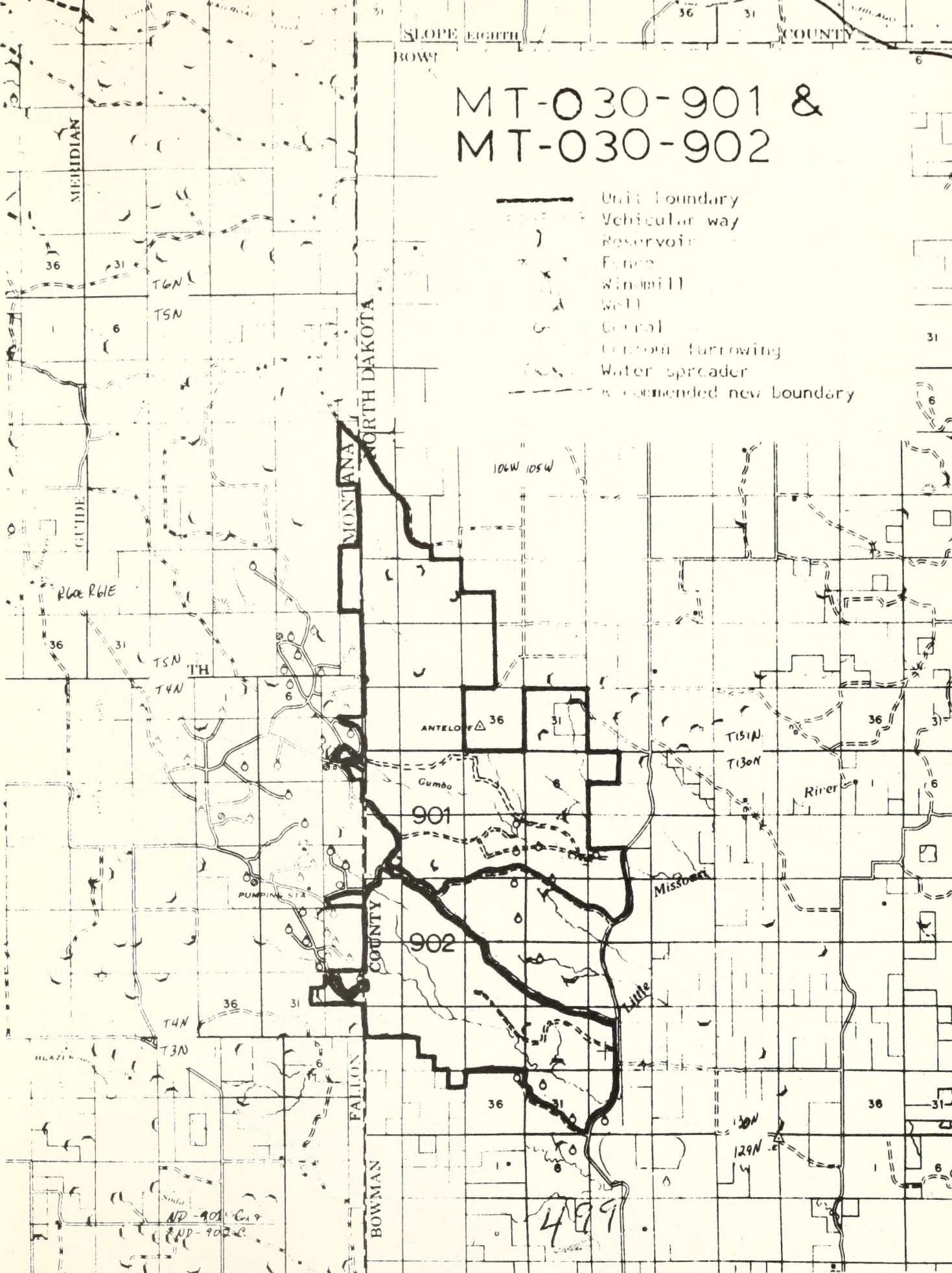
SLOPE EIGHTH

BOWMAN

COUNTY

MT-030-901 & MT-030-902

- Unit boundary
- Vehicular way
- Reservoir
- Fence
- Windmill
- Well
- Corral
- Uniform furrowing
- Water spreader
- Recommended new boundary



3 OE-OSO-TM

50E-OEO-TM

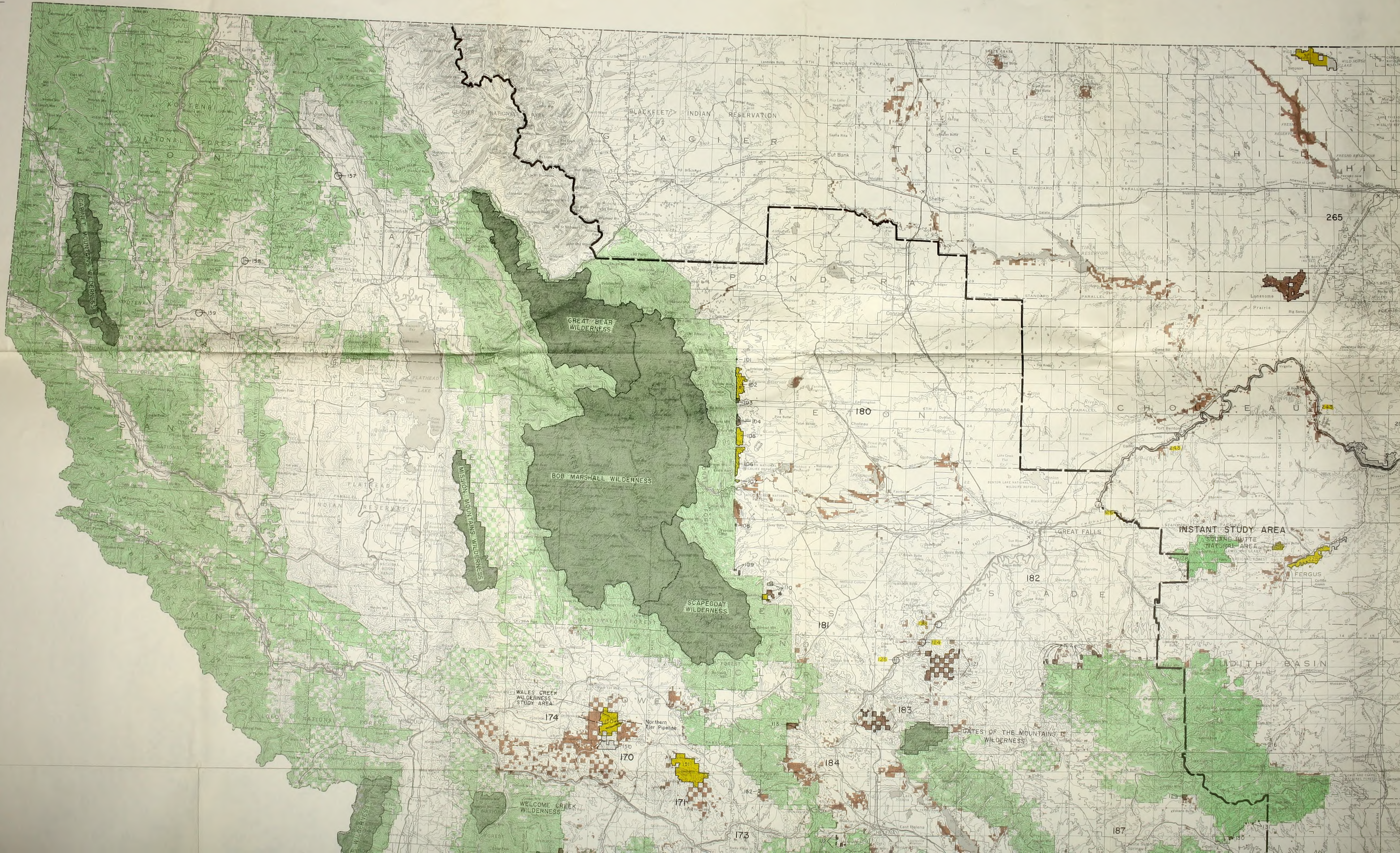
100000

100000

100000

100000





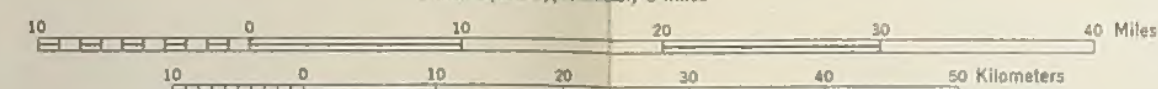
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MONTANA WILDERNESS INVENTORY

FINAL INITIAL INVENTORY MAP

AUGUST 1979

Scale 1:500,000
1 inch equals approximately 8 miles



Contour Interval 500 feet

Datum is mean sea level

Compiled, edited, and published by the Geological Survey, 1927 North American datum
Lambert conformal conic projection based on standard parallels 33° and 45°

LEGEND

- State capital
- County seat
- City, town, or village
- Scheduled service airport
- Interstate highway
- U.S. highway
- State highway
- Other principal roads

POPULATION KEY

GREAT FALLS..... more than 50,000
MISSOULA..... 10,000 to 50,000
Lewistown..... 2,500 to 10,000
Fort Benton..... 1,000 to 2,500
Stanford..... less than 1,000

Population indicated by size of letters

LEGEND

- Existing Wilderness Areas (All Agencies)
- Roadless Area Inventory Units Carried Into Intensive Inventory
- B.L.M. Administered Lands Dropped From Further Wilderness Consideration
- Forest Service Lands
- Areas Dropped From Further Wilderness Consideration, Identified With Northern Tier Accelerated Inventory
- Unit Decisions Changed From Proposed Initial Inventory Decision (See Narrative Summaries)

115°00'

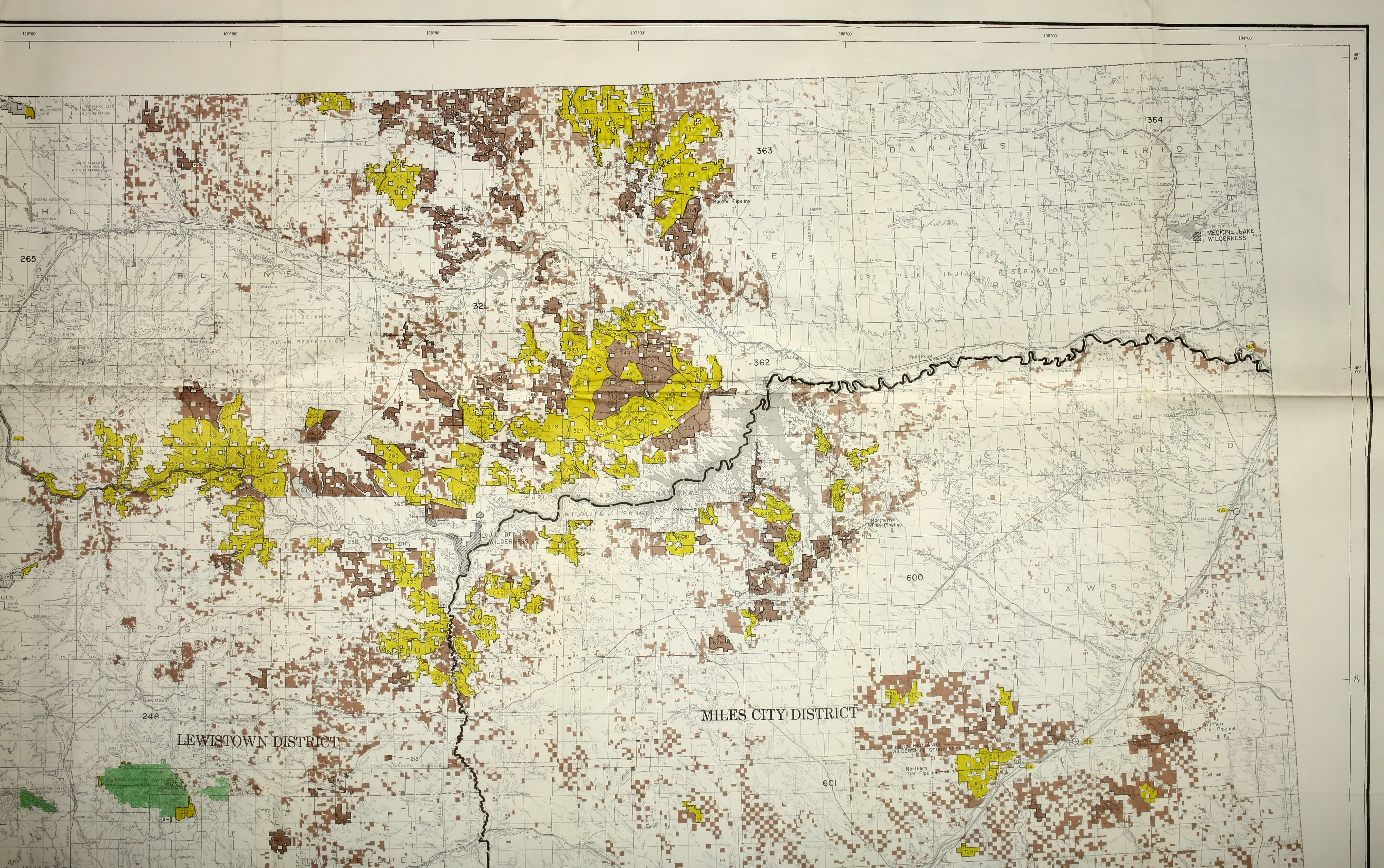
116°00'

117°00'

118°00'

119°00'

120°00'



LEWISTOWN DISTRICT

MILES CITY DISTRICT

364

363

362

600

601

248

265

243

242

241

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

261

264

263

262

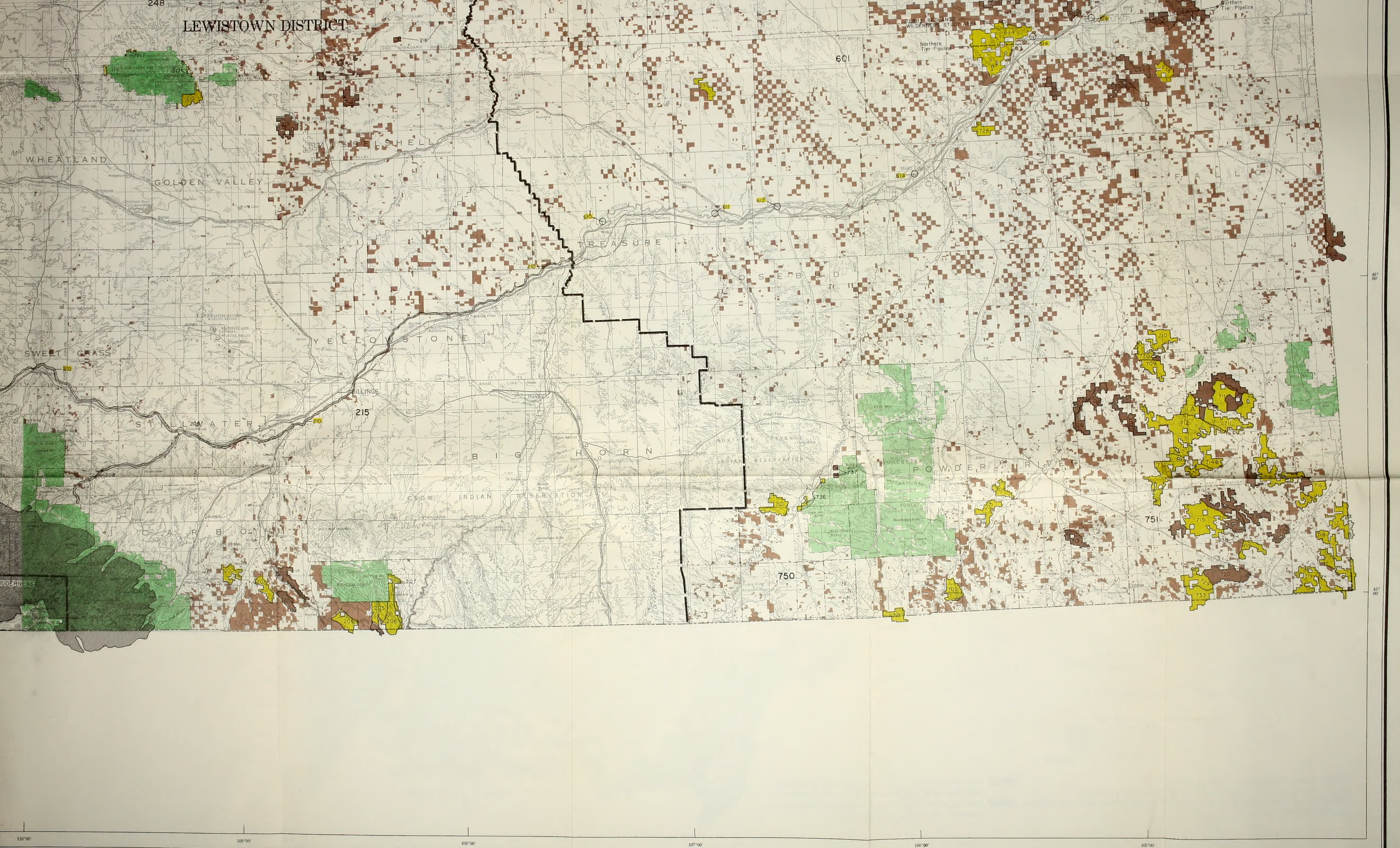
261

264

263

262

LEWISTOWN DISTRICT



Bureau of Land Management
Library
Denver Service Center

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

DENVER FEDERAL CENTER

BUILDING 50

DENVER, COLORADO 80225

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INT-418



